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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 the lowest and 5 the highest, rate your level of optimism that the CNMI economy will improve this year.

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## INSIDE



### Recovery

Gabrielle Giffords feels the sunshine on her face for the first time since she was shot.

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The Philippine coast guard is searching for a sailboat carrying five Americans who left Guam for Cebu.

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### Malaria

George Clooney recovers from malaria he contracted in a visit to Sudan.

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## INOS, LAWMAKERS IN SECOND LEADERSHIP MEETING Tourism incentive program hits snag

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Due to an oversight and typographical errors, the plan to provide up to \$6.2 million in incentives for travel agents bringing in more Japanese tourists from Osaka and Nagoya to the CNMI is facing a snag.

This is because the funding being tapped for the tourism program has been found to be encroaching on the same source of funding to settle the government's debt to the NMI Retirement Fund, which has been owed since Aug. 1, 2009.

The Fitial administration-sponsored House Bill 17-141, introduced by House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), taps 100 percent of the hotel occupancy tax and 100 percent of

the bar tax to fund the "Japan air stabilization" program.

But Retirement Fund administrator Richard S. Villagomez told lawmakers in a Jan. 18 letter that 30 percent of the hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent of the alcohol container tax are already reserved for payments to the pension system as required by a court order, along with an employer contribution rate of 16 percent.

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## Man files police brutality lawsuit

» Corrections officer allegedly beat him up at DOC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A man arrested for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol is suing a corrections officer whom he accused of beating him up inside his

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### MY WAVE CLUB BEACH CLEANUP

Volunteers from the William S. Reyes Elementary School My WAVE (Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club proudly show off the results of their beach cleanup on Jan. 15, 2011. The club picked up trash from Sugar Dock Fishing Base to Saipan Grand Hotel. The cleanup was also supported by the Marianas Tourism Education Council, Division of Environmental Quality, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and other volunteers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Labor's sole-source contracts for hearing officers at \$50 an hour, \$200 a day

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor granted sole-source contracts for two hearing officers—former attorney general Herbert D. Soll and Linn H. Asper—at \$50 an hour and \$200 a day. The contracts included those in 2006 to 2009.

These are based on Labor documents

obtained by former representative Tina Sablan under an Open Government Act request for information on the government's legal service contracts, billings, invoices, and related documents.

So far, some government agencies and autonomous agencies have been found paying or had paid private lawyers up to \$200 an hour, and up to \$80,000 a year. Others are paid under

different arrangements.

Sablan, who has been advocating government transparency and accountability, said Labor did not provide contracts for any in-house hearing officers.

"I was informed [Thursday] that no contract exists for volunteer hearing officer Deanne Siemer," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Labor deputy chief Cinta Kaipat

earlier said that Siemer was an "un-compensated hearing officer" in the department, helping clean up the large backlog of labor cases.

The department granted a sole-source contract to former attorney general Herbert D. Soll as hearing officer at \$50 an hour, not to exceed \$25,000, from April 1, 2006 to Sept. 30, 2006.

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**Saipan airport's runway construction in full swing. PAGE 2**  
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## Local

## Saipan airport's runway construction in full swing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said construction work at the main airport runway of the Saipan International Airport is now in full swing.

In fact, he said, CPA is gearing up for its completion within eight months and expects Run-

way 7/25 to be fully functional by October this year.

"We're on target to complete this project within eight months as expected. So we're expecting a new runway very soon," he said.

A representative from the Federal Aviation Administration, Ron Simpson, was on island on Jan. 6 and 7 to monitor the progress of the project.

Guam Pacific Power Corp.

Inc. is the project contractor.

The main runway would still be able to accommodate large airplanes during the construction period as work will be closed during flight schedules.

The rehabilitation of runway 7/25 will include milling of the existing runway, taxiway, blast pad, shoulder pavements, asphalt concrete overlay, and other works.

The newly built taxiway will also be able to accommodate smaller aircraft.

Deleon Guerrero said the project's contract was amended to shorten the construction peri-

od from the original 14 months to the current eight months.

"This project has been in our books for so long...and we're committed to move forward on this one and we're getting

there," he said.

The main runway rehabilitation will cost \$13.9 million, all funded by the FAA under the airport improvement project program.

## Annie Camacho is named AP scholar

Annie Camacho, a 2010 graduate of Saipan International School, has been named as an Advanced Placement Scholar by the College Board's Advanced Placement Program.

Camacho is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Efrain Camacho of Navy Hill and she is currently attending the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Camacho was presented with this honor in recognition of her exceptional achieve-



Camacho

ment on the Advanced Placement examinations that she took during her sophomore, junior, and senior years at Saipan International School.

She was also the president of the Student Council and member of the girls' varsity basketball team at SIS.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level course while still in high

school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams.

All students at Saipan International School have the opportunity to take a minimum of five Advanced Placement courses while in high school. Courses are offered in the departments of English, Social Science, and Mathematics. They can take the AP examination in May of each year. The examinations are prepared by college faculty at some of the nation's leading liberal arts and research colleges and universities. (PR)

## Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 19-20

Things are heating up south of Saipan as the 7th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival gears up for the annual celebration on Feb. 19-20.

The festival will present a full weekend of food, arts and crafts, and island-style entertainment inspired by "donni sali," Tinian's internationally famous hot pepper.

Revelers will have the opportunity to participate or cheer for their favorite teams and con-

testants in the Hot Pepper Eating Contest, Dragon Boat Race, Cha Cha Dance Contest, Hermit Crab Race, and the "Estofao Pika" Cooking Contest. Hapi the Clown will also join this year's event again.

"Just like 'donni sali,' the island of Tinian has a unique flavor all its own," said the Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager Martin Dueñas. "The Hot Pepper Fes-

tival is going to be a great opportunity for visitors to mingle with the locals and get a taste of Tinian's way of life."

The MVA is collaborating with the Tinian Mayor's Office and MVA members to put up the event, which will be held at Tachogna Beach. The annual event falls on the weekend before President's Day to entice more visitors to Tinian for the holiday weekend. (MVA)



## CHANGE ORDER

Rico Borromeo, left, an air conditioner technician for Pacific Changhong, works on one of the sections of the ground floor of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon, while a child, right, waits for an adult member of his family to drive their vehicle. The completion date for the renovation of the governor's office building has been extended by 15 days or until Feb. 26, 2011 because of the need to build an additional wall, as well as additional plumbing work, rerouting of sewer and electrical lines as a result of the construction of the elevator pit.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## NMC symposium to explore open ocean cage culture

As part of its efforts to further develop the CNMI's aquaculture industry and to share information about successful aquaculture initiatives, the Northern Marianas College - Cooperative Research Extension and Resource Service will be hosting the 2011 Open Ocean Cage Culture Symposium next week from Jan. 26 to Jan. 27 at the Saipan World Resort. The community is invited to the event, which is co-hosted by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

Open Ocean Cage Culture is based on spherical or double cone-shaped cages made of a kevlar-like, high strength poly-fiber netting, with a steel pipe frame giving them semi-rigidity, and are submerged to 40 to 75 feet. The cages are anchored to the sea floor with cement blocks and are submerged 40 to 75 feet.

The size of the cages can be anywhere from 20,000 to 1.4 million cubic feet. A 100,000 cubic feet cage holds about 60,000 fish. For harvest, the cages are brought up to the surface by blowing air into the frame pipes, just like in a submarine. The cages are best situated in water depths from 50 to 200 feet, depths that can be found just outside the reefs in the CNMI.

NMC-CREES aquaculture specialist Michael Ogo pointed out that the best area for setting up cages is north of the Tanapag harbor. This keeps the fuel costs for the boats needed to feed and harvest the fish low. In other places, like the Hawaiian Islands, the cages are placed about three miles off the coastline.

Aquaculture industries are likely going to have a profitable future, according to Ogo. In addition to replacing declining



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Neil Sims, co-founder of Kona Blue in Hawaii, is one of the speakers to be featured in next week's symposium.

wild catch in some parts of the world, these industries will have to provide 40 million tons of extra seafood to meet the demand from a growing world population by 2030. In 2007 aquaculture was a 1.1 billion dollar industry in the U.S.

"But where to build all the tanks and ponds that are needed without competing with farmers and ranchers for land," asked Ogo. "The solution to this problem is to raise the fish in the ocean."

"The possibilities for open ocean cage culture in our islands are immense," added Ogo. "We have clean waters, suitable sites, and are close to the markets hungry for fresh fish."

Featured speakers include Dr. Charles Laidley (Oceanic Institute), Robert Jimmy (aquaculture officer, Secretariat of the Pacific Community), Randy Cates (Cates International, Hawaii), Neil A. Sims (co-founder Kona Blue, Hawaii), Yoon Kil Lee (CEO, NNT Systems, Korea)

John Brown (Guam Aquaculture Development and Trainings Center), and Michael Ogo (aquaculture specialist Northern Marianas College).

The speakers will present peer-to-peer information on future developments of aquaculture in the Pacific Basin. Presentations will be as interactive as possible to give participants the opportunity to share knowledge or concerns on the topics of aquaculture research, environmental impacts, regulatory issues, and business investment opportunities.

To register for the symposium, call Mark Flores at NMC-CREES at 234-5498 Ext. 1706. A registration package can also be downloaded from <http://crees.org>. The event will be streamed via video teleconference to NMC's instructional sites in Tinian and Rota, as well as simulcasted to the Internet at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/open-ocean-cage-culture-symposium>. This site allows for comments or questions during the sessions. (NMC)

## Probationer faces new criminal case in Guam

Jurisdiction over a probationer who is facing charges of terrorizing a former girlfriend last month in Guam has been transferred from the U.S. District Court for the NMI to the U.S. District Court of Guam.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Michael Mosman ordered the transfer of Jeffrey Sablan Basa's records to the District for Guam at the request of U.S. Probation Officer Stephen P. Guillot.

Guillot stated in his report that Basa was arrested by Guam police officers on Dec. 3, 2010, for the offenses of terrorizing, family violence, reckless conduct, and harassment.

Guillot said that police officers had responded to a disturbance in Mangilao after they received information from the victim that Basa was banging on her apartment door and trying to break the door to enter the apartment.

The victim said Basa was possibly in possession of a gun.

Police officers arrived at the apartment and arrested Basa. No gun was found in his possession.

A witness told police that Basa was earlier seen holding a gun. Basa's brother struggled for the gun and two shots were reportedly heard.

In February 2000, then U.S.

District Court for the NMI Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced Basa to 11 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to taking a motor vehicle with intent to cause bodily harm by violence and intimidation, affecting commerce by robbery, and felon in possession of a firearm.

After completing his prison term, Basa was released from the Bureau of Prisons to the District of Guam on June 8, 2009. His five-year supervised release commenced on June 8, 2009.

Guillot said Basa has also not made any restitution payments to the victims since his release. The total outstanding balance is \$5,218. (Ferdie de la Torre)



# Accreditation commission yet to accept NMC report

## » ACCJC decision expected next month

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges has yet to accept the show-cause and supplemental reports turned in by the Northern Marianas College.

NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera, along with Board of Regents chair Maria Paz Younis and accreditation liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero, attended the accreditation commission's assembly on Jan. 13 in San Francisco, California.

No information about the reports' acceptance was provided to the delegation but NMC officials anticipate the commission's decision to be out early next month.

"We anticipate that the commission will notify the college of its decision by early Febru-

ary," NMC said in a statement issued to *Saipan Tribune*.

It added that due to ACCJC's Policy on Public Disclosure, NMC must maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality with ACCJC at this juncture in the accreditation process.

"As such, NMC is unable to comment on inquiries for more specific information at this time," the statement added.

NMC assured that it will make the full report and the decision letter accessible to the public on its website once the accrediting commission indicates that it is appropriate to do so.

NMC was placed on show-cause status in June 2010—exactly a year after WASC reaffirmed its accreditation in June 2009. During the show-cause period, NMC retains its accreditation.

Show-cause is ordered when the accrediting commission finds an institution to be in sub-

stantial non-compliance with eligibility requirements, standards, or commission policies, or when the institution has not responded to the conditions im-

posed by the commission.

NMC submitted reports to the commission in October and December with evidence demonstrating NMC's com-

pliance with accreditation standards.

Ten new recommendations were cited by WASC in its show-cause order. Failure to

rectify these concerns might result to termination of its accreditation. NMC is also scheduled for a WASC self-study visit in March 2012.



### NEW COMMANDER

Key officials of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Honolulu District recently paid a courtesy and familiarization visit to the Office of the Governor to introduce their new commander. From left, Derek Chow, chief of Civil & Public Works Branch; Vicky Villagomez, special assistant for OMB; Anthony Paresa, deputy district engineer for Programs & Project Management; acting governor Eloy S. Inos; Lt. Col. Douglas Guttormson, commander; and Shivon White, district counsel. The Army Corps of Engineers has been providing assistance to the CNMI government on a number of infrastructure and technical assistance related projects.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## CUC discloses terms of new contract with PMIC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. submitted to the federal court on Thursday the 2006 settlement agreement it entered into with independent power producer Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., which runs Power Plant 4 for CUC.

The company, based on the court documents, was contracted by the utilities firm in 2006 to manage, maintain, and operate the Puerto Rico power plant 4.

Pursuant to stipulated order 2, which was executed in August last year, CUC agreed to provide the court a copy of the independent power producer's

contract for power plant 4.

CUC said the original contract with PMIC was entered in 1991 and was amended in 1996. Under the amended agreement, the contract was for 10 years, or until July 31, 2006.

On Nov. 15, 2005, PMIC submitted to CUC a notice of intent to exercise its option to extend the contract for an

additional 10 years. CUC, in July 2006, notified the IPP that the proposed extension would not be granted as it had determined that the best interest of CUC and its customers would not be served by granting the extension.

PMIC appealed CUC's decision and, in an effort to resolve their differences and any dispute, both parties reached an agreement wherein CUC will grant extension of the contract and PMIC shall dismiss the appeal under some terms and conditions.

The new 10-year contract

started on Aug. 1, 2006, and will expire on July 31, 2016.

As part of the settlement agreement, PMIC granted to CUC the option to choose which engine combination it would like to operate when it takes back the operation of Power Plant 4 upon the expiration of the contract.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Businessman Anthony Pellegrino gestures as he talks to farmers and ranchers during a meeting Wednesday night.

## Local farmers, ranchers urged to commit to slaughterhouse project

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
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REPORTER

Businessman Anthony Pellegrino wants the commitment of local farmers and ranchers if they want the slaughterhouse project realized.

"My major concern for the project is commitment. I need all of you to be committed," Pellegrino told the farmers and ranchers during their meeting Wednesday night.

Pellegrino emphasized that the Marianas Meat Harvesting

Corp., the slaughterhouse that will be located in Lower Base, would need to have a steady supply of about 400 pigs a month if they want to start providing fresh meat in the CNMI and Guam.

"It can be done if local farmers and ranchers commit themselves to raise more to meet this target," he added.

According to Pellegrino, they also welcome farmers and ranchers who will provide other meat such as cattle and goats but they are looking at

focusing on pork since it is easier to raise pigs.

Pellegrino said there are a lot of unused lands on the island that can be utilized by farmers and ranchers in raising pigs for the slaughterhouse.

He said they can provide assistance to those who want to learn and become professional pig raisers to meet the demands of the future slaughterhouse.

"There's a lot of business opportunities in this and if we don't help ourselves, no one's going to help us," he added.

## Happie nuts is nuts about Saipan

Popular Japan female fashion magazine *Happie nuts* arrived on Saipan on Thursday, Jan. 20, for a location shoot and to hold magazine's first overseas *nuts* night club event.

The Marianas Visitors Authority is assisting with the media FAM tour, which will bring the Northern Marianas over \$141,000 in ad exposure value.

*Nuts night* will be held tonight, Jan. 22, at GIG Discotheque in Garapan, featuring models Sayoko Ozaki and Akane Satomi and local models. There will be fashion shows on stage at 11pm and midnight. Admission to the fashion and

talk show is \$10.

*Happie nuts* is a leading urban youth fashion magazine targeting young women in their teens and 20s. The content of the magazine includes clothing, cosmetics, accessories, and lifestyle information. The media crew will also conduct photo shoots at popular tourist spots through Sunday.

"This is a unique opportunity to reach the youth market of Japan with the appeal of our islands," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "We hope local youth have the opportunity to come out and have a good time with the models during the *nuts* night event this

weekend."

*Happie nuts* is published monthly in InForest and has a circulation of 190,000 readers. (MVA)

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# Woman arrested for allegedly beating up husband

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

A woman was arrested for allegedly beating up her husband at their residence in Chalan Kanoa Tuesday morning.

Anna Marie Higgins Anson, 20, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at \$200 cash and \$1,800 unsecured bond. Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 27 at 9am.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that the victim was at his residence when Anson arrived with her

sister on Monday night.

The victim went to sleep and when he woke up later, he saw his wife, his sister-in-law, and other women in the kitchen area.

The victim then saw a man outside the house, so he asked him what he was doing there. When the man replied that he was with the two women inside the house, the victim told him to go inside the house. The man said it was okay as he was waiting for a taxicab.

The victim then went back to sleep.

Anson later went inside the bedroom and confronted her husband for scaring the man.

She allegedly threw things around—the refrigerator, electric fan, TV, and chairs—punched the husband in the left eye, and hit him on the left forearm with a piece of wood.

Anson also allegedly walked into their shop, threw another electric fan on the ground, spilled paint on the floor, and smashed the windshield of the victim's truck with a metal chair.

She also allegedly damaged the window of a car that her husband was still fixing in the shop.

Anson left the house, but police found her near Holiday Market in Chalan Kanoa where she was later arrested. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## LABOR

From Page 1

Labor secretary Gil M. San Nicolas justified the sole-source contract by citing a continuing increase in the volume of pending labor and agency cases that causes a backlog in administrative hearing matters, as well as continuing increase in the number of appeal filings at the time. San Nicolas said the situation was “approaching a crisis in delivery of services.”

A copy of a March 2008 contract shows change order number 4, extending the contract and services from Feb. 1, 2008, to June 30, 2008.

Soll billed Labor \$14,125 for 282.5 hours of hearings, mediations, and orders between March and May 31, 2008.

He also billed Labor \$8,300 for 166 hours at \$50 an hour from June 1 to Aug. 31, 2008.

In September that year, a fifth change

order was executed, extending the contract from Aug. 1, 2008, to Sept. 30, 2008.

Soll billed Labor \$7,075 for 141.5 hours in September.

In December 2008, Labor again granted a sole-source contract to Soll for \$50 an hour, but not to exceed \$5,000 from Oct. 1, 2008, to December 2008.

Soll's billing was at \$7,575 for 151.5 hours in October.

Labor amended Soll's contract to extend it from Jan. 2, 2009 to March 31, 2009.

Besides the extension, Labor also changed Soll's rate from \$50 an hour to \$200 a day.

In May 2009, Soll's contract was extended again from April 1, 2009, to June 30, 2009, without additional cost.

In September of the same year, Labor amended the contract for the third time, extending it from Aug. 27 to Sept. 30, 2009.

In December 2009, Labor granted

another sole-source contract to Soll for \$200 a day but not to exceed \$7,200 from Oct. 1, 2009, to Dec. 31, 2009.

Labor signed a sole-source contract with Linn H. Asper as hearing officer effective Jan. 5, 2009, to March 31, 2009, for \$200 a day, not to exceed \$5,000.

Asper billed Labor \$5,400, based on copies of billings that Labor provided Sablan.

Of this amount, \$1,800 for nine days was billed in December 2008. Each day that month, Asper conducted labor and denial hearings anywhere from three to seven hours.

He also billed Labor the following: \$1,600 in January 2009; \$600 for February and March 2009; \$1,200 for November 2009; and \$200 in December 2009.

Sablan's OGA requests aim to bring to light any abuses of public funds or the CNMI procurement process that may have occurred, and take further action as necessary.

## TOURISM

From Page 1

This was one of the key issues tackled in yesterday's leadership meeting between acting governor Eloy S. Inos and 23 of 29 lawmakers in the House chamber on Capital Hill.

The closed-door meeting started at 9:40am and ended at about 1:30pm. However, Inos still had a brief meeting with Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) in the speaker's conference room until about 1:45pm.

It was a follow up to the first leadership meeting held on Jan. 7 at the Saipan World Resort.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) said lawmakers are considering the Retirement Fund's suggestion to amend HB 17-141, to deposit only 70 percent of the collected hotel occupancy tax to the Japan Air Stabilization Trust Fund instead of 100 percent, so that the court-ordered 30 percent to the Fund will still be complied with.

He said the Fund is also suggesting that instead of depositing 100 percent of the collected bar tax to the Japan Air Stabilization Trust Fund, it should be reduced to 80 percent, so that the other 20 percent will still be used to pay the Fund as ordered by the court in 2009.

“The Retirement Fund's recommendations make sense,” Sablan said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, in a separate interview, said the Fitial administration does not want to touch the bar tax collection to partially fund the tourism incentive program. He said there was an oversight in the funding source identified in the administration-

sponsored bill.

He said the administration is now reviewing the bill, this time to ensure that the tourism incentive program is partly funded by business gross revenue tax collection and 70 percent of the hotel occupancy tax.

Demapan said the administration will be able to provide the House with a revised bill before the House's session next week.

The Marianas Visitors Authority's tourism campaign will provide a \$100 incentive to travel agents for every passenger they will be bring to Saipan from the Japanese cities of Osaka and Nagoya during so-called low peak periods. The next “Death Valley” period is from April to June.

“We hope that this will be passed before that,” Demapan said.

Tourism is the single most important industry in the CNMI right now.

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) described the second full leadership meeting as a “good one,” as the participants were able to report progress on the top three measures they identified as priorities during the first meeting.

These measures are the tourism incentive bill, as well as amendment to the anti-smoking law to increase the percentage of hotel rooms designated as “smoking rooms,” and a bill removing the \$250 million price tag to privatize the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

### Two groups

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said participants also agreed to divide the group into two: one is to concentrate on revenue gen-

eration and economic growth, and the second one focuses on reducing government size without affecting essential public services.

He said he and speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) will be deciding in the next few days which of the House and Senate members will be included in either of the two groups.

Once the groups' members are identified, they can start meeting on their own, with participation from the Fitial administration.

Of the 20 House members, three were absent at yesterday's full leadership meeting: Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Sylvster Iguel (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan).

In the Senate, three of nine members were also excused from the meeting. They were Senate vice president Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

Also in the closed-door meeting were press secretary Demapan and Inos' legal counsel, Teresa Kim.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is still in Taiwan, and won't be back until Sunday.

The Executive and Legislative branches have been trying to address the government's worsening financial crisis that has been causing delayed payrolls despite a 16-hour cut since the start of fiscal year 2011 in October.

The administration estimates a \$6 million budget shortfall in the first quarter of fiscal year 2011 alone. In fiscal year 2010, the budget deficit reached \$18.586 million, including \$16 million in overexpenditure and over \$2 million in lesser collections than estimated.

# Lawmaker wants Saipan businesses to keep premises clean and green

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

If it were up to Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), he would want all Saipan businesses to keep the area surrounding their premises clean and green.

The freshman lawmaker introduced House Local Bill 17-35 or the Saipan Business Cleanliness Act of 2010, basically requiring businesses on the island to maintain the area around their property “in an orderly manner.”

He said as a tourist destination, Saipan needs to maintain a clean and beautiful environment, especially because tourism is the only main industry in the CNMI.

Sablan, a former immigration director, said there are many areas on Saipan—including the tourist district of Garapan—that are dirty, have be-

come eyesores, and create unhealthy conditions.

“The appearance and conditions of a community weigh heavily in the decisions of prospective businesses in locating to a particular area. A clean, safe, and well-kept community can stabilize or increase property values, provide a healthy environment, and make citizens proud of the area in which they conduct business,” he said in his bill.

Under his local bill, the Saipan Mayor's Office is charged with the responsibility in enforcing the provisions of the measure.

Once this is signed into local law, the mayor's office is required to formulate regulations that will include proper maintenance of fences and walls, proper maintenance of grass and weeds, issuance of notice of failure to comply, and fines for violations.

## BRUTALITY

From Page 1

cell at the Department of Corrections two years ago.

Quirino G. Adlaon, through counsel Vicente T. Salas, sued Corrections officer Jesse Reyes Babauta yesterday for police brutality. He said the attack knocked his teeth loose.

Adlaon also sued former Corrections commissioner Dolores San Nicolas Aldan, former Corrections director Gregory F. Castro, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela, former police officer Patrick Maanao, police officer Roque Camacho, the CNMI government, and the Department of Public Safety.

Adlaon is suing for deprivation of due process, assault and battery resulting in serious bodily injury, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. He is demanding unspecified damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Salas stated in the complaint that Adlaon was pulled over by then police officer Maanao and an unknown police officer on Jan. 22, 2009, on Beach Road allegedly for DUI.

Salas said that Maanao handcuffed Adlaon and took him to DPS Central where a breathalyzer test was thrice administered. Salas said that Adlaon passed all three tests.

Maanao then took Adlaon outside the building for two field sobriety tests. The lawyer said Adlaon passed both tests.

Maanao then allegedly took Adlaon to the Department of Corrections where he was placed in a cell and given a blanket and pillow.

When Adlaon asked why he was being jailed when he had passed all the tests, Maanao allegedly replied he was being jailed for reckless driving and DUI.

Salas said his client was not given a traffic citation for DUI and reckless driving and any other type of offense.

Salas said that after 15 minutes in the cell, Adlaon asked for water from Babauta, who was watching TV on a chair with his feet on a desk.

Adlaon asked for drinking water three times; Babauta ignored him the first two times. The third time, Babauta allegedly told Adlaon to “shut up, better you sleep!”

When a second officer came, Adlaon again asked for water. The second of-

ficer gave him two cups of water.

Adlaon then asked Babauta, who was still watching TV, why he denied him water when the second officer did so.

Without any warning, Salas said, Babauta stood up, pushed Adlaon against the cell sink, and punched him in the mouth. Babauta also took the cup of water from Adlaon and splashed its contents on Adlaon's face.

Adlaon's mouth started to bleed. He realized that his teeth had been knocked loose from the punch.

A female corrections officer, Regina Sablan, and the other officer who gave Adlaon water pulled Babauta away from the plaintiff.

When Adlaon asked Babauta why he was doing that to him. Babauta allegedly answered, “I can do anything here because this is my house.”

Adlaon was then left alone in his cell with his mouth bleeding profusely. He yelled for help for over an hour, but no one replied.

Salas said that Adlaon was left unattended until 6am when food was delivered to his cell but he could not eat because of the pain in his mouth.

The lawyer said that on Jan. 23 at 2:30pm, an officer showed up at the cell and took Adlaon to the front office to be released.

The officer called then Corrections officer Georgia Cabrera after Adlaon claimed he was attacked in the cell.

Correction officers brought Adlaon to the Commonwealth Health Center where a dentist extracted his broken tooth.

Adlaon was then taken back to DOC where a corrections officer took his statement about the attack. He was then released from DOC at 6:30pm to 7pm.

Salas said that on Nov. 1, 2009, at 3pm, while Adlaon was sitting outside a friend's house in Chalan Kanoa with some friends, police officer Camacho arrived and asked them about the owner of the car parked in front of the house.

When Adlaon replied that the car belonged to another person, Camacho allegedly handcuffed him on charges of speeding and disturbing the peace.

After standing handcuffed for more than two hours in a small room at DOC, Adlaon's hands and wrists were injured.

Adlaon was later moved to a cell inside where he stayed overnight.

Salas said Adlaon was released the next day at 3:30pm, but he was never charged for the alleged offenses.



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# Opinion

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## Saipan Tribune

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## America needs to break off its relationship with guns

By DAVID A. LOVE  
PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

At his comforting speech last week in Tucson, Ariz., President Obama briefly mentioned the “merits of gun safety laws.” I wish he had used the occasion to press for tougher ones because America’s love affair with weapons is a huge problem.

With 90 guns for every 100 people, the United States is by far the most heavily armed nation in the world. Yemen, in second place, has 61 guns per 100 people.

Not surprisingly, nearly 100,000 people are injured or killed with a gun in this country each year. America’s homicide rate is 6.9 times higher than rates in 22 other industrialized nations combined, according to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. More than 1 million people have been killed with guns in the United States since Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated in 1968, according to the Children’s Defense Fund.

We need to stop this madness.

Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D-N.Y.—whose husband was murdered in a 1993 shooting rampage—and Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., are sponsoring legislation to restore the ban on high-capacity gun magazines that allow for mass slaughter, reducing the clips to 10 rounds. And Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., has proposed legislation that would make it illegal to bring a gun within 1,000 feet of a government official.

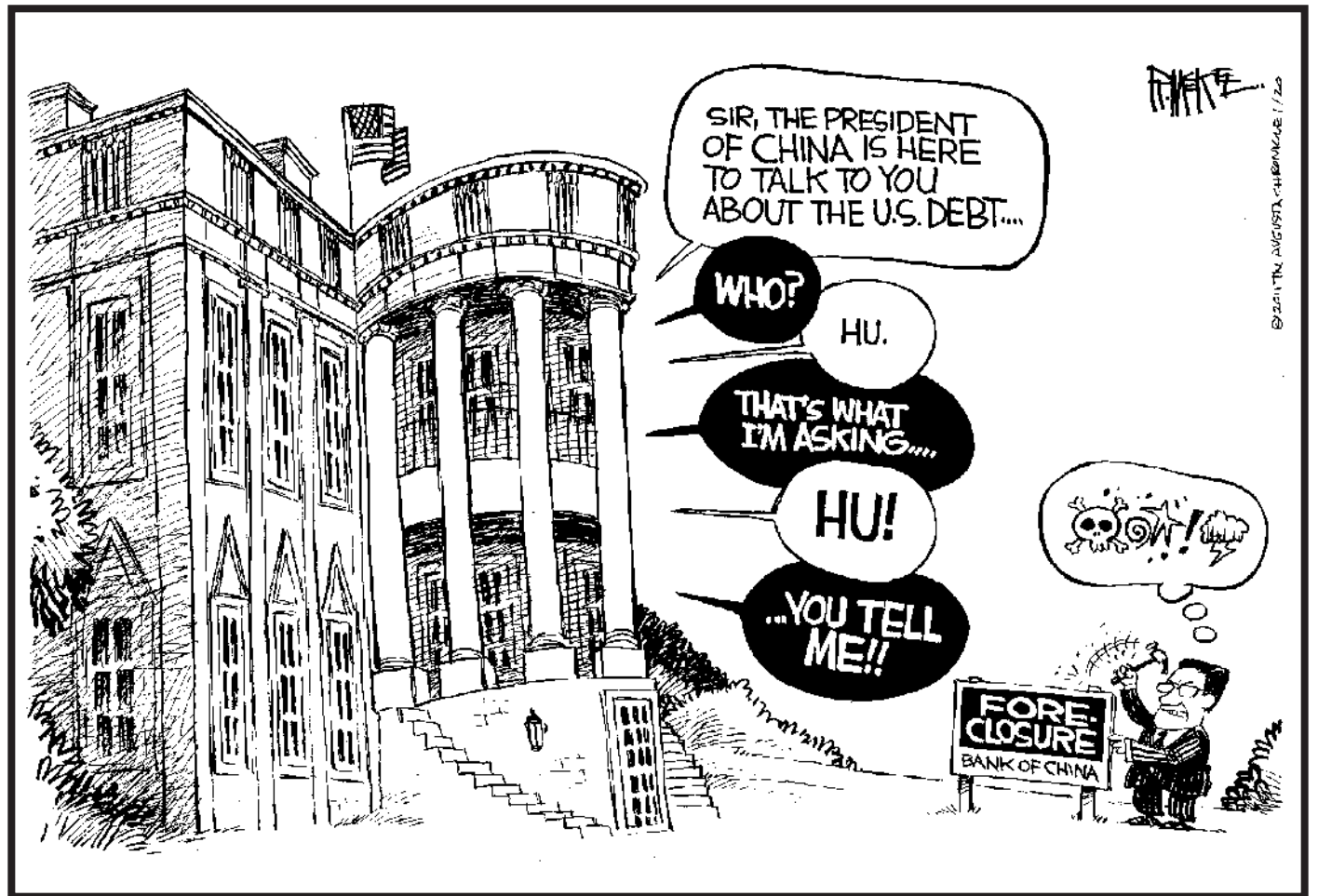
Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., a veteran lawmaker, recently expressed his support for a ban on assault weapons. And Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., an avid gun supporter, said he would work to make sure that the mentally ill are not allowed to buy and use a gun.

So far, House Speaker John Boehner has rejected gun control legislation, and the National Rifle Association consistently lobbies against gun restrictions.

“I think there are a bunch up wimps up there,” gun control advocate Sarah Brady said of legislators who are unwilling to take on the gun lobby. (She is the wife of James Brady, President Reagan’s press secretary who was wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on Reagan.) Perversely, some gun rights supporters suggest that there should be more guns, not fewer, in schools, in public places, in houses of worship. This approach is reckless and irresponsible, and will only lead to more innocent lives lost.

We’ve lost more than enough already.

David A. Love is executive editor of BlackCommentator.com. He wrote this for *Progressive Media Project*, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with *The Progressive* magazine.



## When it comes to opinions, we're all in an intellectual Costco

You think too much. And you're not alone. Everybody's thinking too much. We live in an era in which it is important to have opinions. Not necessarily smart or original ones; almost any opinion will do as long as it's forcefully expressed. When it comes to opinions, we're all living in an intellectual Costco, where it's volume, volume, volume.

It wasn't that long ago that opinions were something carefully considered and weighed, so that they'd stand the test of time and reflect well on the author. Thinkers were like gourmet chefs laboring over an elaborate meal they wanted to be perfect. But today, opinions are Big Macs—thrown together hastily, served by the billions and not very good for you.

You probably don't want to have as many opinions as you have. But everyone around you has them. There's cable news, of course. Keith Olbermann and Glenn Beck each have plenty of opinions.

When you sell opinions for money, the way Keith and Glenn do, it doesn't take you long to catch on that the more opinions you have, the more money you make. So, like radish farmers who grow more radishes in order to get rich, Keith and Glenn create dozens of new opinions per night.

But here's the problem: They're not very smart opinions. And they're forcing everyone around them, including you, to also have far too many opinions. We post them on Facebook; we tweet them; we express them in comments on Huffington Post. We've become junior-grade cable goons—but paid much less.

We get angry too, just like Keith and Glenn. What's the point in having an opinion if it's not an angry opinion? If something upsets us—like a member of Congress and a bunch of innocent bystanders being shot in Tucson—we don't mourn, we fulminate. We assign blame. Or we deflect blame—angrily.

It's hard to find the good guys when one side is self-righteously accusing the other side of lacking civility as if that were any more likely to spark violence than movies or video games, and the response is, weirdly, to defend a lack of civility as if it's a good thing.

Opinion inflation has invaded every aspect of our lives. It causes us to post our opinions about our dry cleaner on Yelp. Did you used to have an opinion about your dry cleaner, or was he just sort of there, like a shrub or a parking meter?

Did you even notice what George W. Bush wore on his feet? Probably not, but half the country wanted to weigh in on President Obama's wearing of flip-flops to the beach.

If the Gap or Starbucks changed their logos a few years ago, would you have noticed? And more important, would you have run to Facebook (if it had existed) to cast your vote for the old Gap logo, as if it had always been a meaningful part of your life?

The Internet is a Petri dish of opinion inflation, breeding commentary like bacteria. Because few people do anything interesting or have anything factual to report, they toss off a short opinion. That, in turn, leads to opinion hyperinflation; just look at the comments

By STEPHEN RANDALL  
Los Angeles TimesStephen Randall is the deputy editor of *Playboy*.  
He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

sections on any blog. Opinions quickly devolve from Big Macs into rat poison. Civility makes only a rare appearance, and facts are no longer facts. Evolution, climate change, gravity—it's all one point of view against another. Everyone gets a vote, even the people who aren't particularly sane.

There was a time when thoughtful people tried to be balanced. The old-style political columnists were famous for saying nothing. They presented both sides of any given issue in an “on the one hand/ on the other” fashion, pretty much allowing readers to form their own opinions, which—lacking proper guidance—readers rarely did. Walter Cronkite voiced so few opinions that when he uttered one—about the Vietnam War—it changed the course of history.

Of course, those days were boring. Today's onslaught of nonstop commentary everywhere you look is significantly more entertaining. Walter Lippmann was boring; Arianna Huffington is not. Eric Sevareid could put you to sleep faster than Ambien; Sean Hannity is a shot of double espresso (with the new, not the old, Starbucks logo).

Now we're hooked. We don't go to a new restaurant to eat a meal; we go there to dissect it and then tweet about it. We can't post a link to an article without giving it some sort of grade. We criticize the music we listen to and the TV we watch. Awards shows have been reduced to weird Joan Rivers screeds about what celebrities are wearing on the red carpet. Each dress has to be deconstructed by a panel of experts and found wanting.

It's all turning us into surly teenagers who disagree with everything.

There's a certain irony, I realize, to expressing an opinion about opinions. And perhaps I should be grateful. Not only am I more entertained these days, but when I'm feeling lazy, I can switch from thinking too much to not thinking at all. I am so surrounded by opinions that I don't need any of my own. I can turn on Fox or MSNBC and adopt an entire political philosophy without knowing a thing.

Of course, the problem is that when I share that philosophy, I don't sound intelligent, I sound like a drunk at a bar arguing with an empty barstool.

On his old HBO show, Dennis Miller used to end his trademark rants with, “Of course, that's just my opinion. I could be wrong.”

He was right. I could be wrong too. But he was also way too opinionated.



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## Putting a human face on the immigrant

When he turns 75 late next month, Cardinal Roger Mahony will step down as the leader of America's largest Roman Catholic diocese, in Los Angeles.

But he's still vigorous and plans to remain very much engaged, not only as a priest but also as an influential voice in the debates over an issue that has preoccupied him throughout his ministry: Immigration. In a statement to be distributed throughout the archdiocese this week, Mahony outlines his plans in a deeply personal document headed, "STANDING with the ELEVEN MILLION: Welcoming the Strangers in Our Midst."

The title is a reference to the estimated 11 million immigrants currently making a life in the United States without legal documents. And in a conversation this week, I asked Mahony—the first native-born Los Angeleno to serve as archbishop—why this issue, among all others, so animates him.

"If you go back to my earliest years as a seminarian and as a priest," he said, "these are the people to whom I've been most devoted and of whom I've been most admiring."

In his statement, Mahony amplifies that personal history, writing that "while growing up in the San Fernando Valley, I came in contact with those Mexican-American men and women who worked for my parents at their (poultry processing) plant. They became my friends. During my years as a seminarian at Saint John's Seminary in Camarillo, several of us seminarians were able to accompany priests to the farm labor camps where Mass was offered. ... After my ordination to the priesthood, I served in the San Joaquin Valley and was always deeply touched by the faith, traditions and commitment to family on the part of countless

immigrants across the Valley. ... The efforts of Cesar Chavez to improve the salaries and working conditions of thousands of farm workers in our state greatly inspired me."

With an academic background in social work, Mahony—who served as the first head of California's Agricultural Labor Relations Board—always has had a capacity, unusual among clerics, to engage the practical details of applying social morality to policy. Thus, he sees an opening still for comprehensive immigration reform, which he believes has been impeded by the recession. He intends, moreover, to devote a substantial portion of his effort to universities because, as he told me, "Young people get this issue."

That, plus polling data that demonstrate a continuing appetite for some sort of path to legal residency and citizenship for undocumented immigrant workers, makes him optimistic on an issue many would rather avoid.

I asked Mahony how he responds to critics who charge that the church's—and his—position on immigration is less a consequence of principle than of expediency. Newcomers, after all, are filling pews increasingly vacated by alienated or indifferent Catholics of European descent and helping to maintain the church's position as the country's largest religious denomination. The cardinal chuckled and quipped, "If that's the only way we can attract people, we'd be doing such a poor job of proclaiming the Gospel that we'd have gone out of business years ago."

Then, as he always does, Mahony quickly returned to the hard numbers he believes support the immigrants' case and vindicate the church's position on the issue. "More than 40 percent of our 11 mil-

By **TIM RUTTEN**

Los Angeles Times

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lion immigrant people came here with visas on airplanes and simply stayed on when their visas expired. Very few of (those immigrants) are Hispanic or Catholic. We have no system in this country for tracking people with expired visas, and we need to make more stringent tracking of visa holders part of any comprehensive immigration reform. And I support that."

In his statement this week, Mahony writes that "I suspect that many anti-immigrant feelings and sentiments arise from frustration with the seeming inability, or the unwillingness, to fix our broken immigration system," but that he hopes to "encourage all of us to get to know our immigrant neighbors more personally. We will discover that their core values are the same as ours. ... Once we put a human face on an immigrant, the stereotypes ... begin to dissolve."

Immigration is one of those contested social questions on which goodwill and reason are in increasingly short supply. The approach that Mahony is now pursuing is so self-evidently rooted in our common moral wisdom and the practical realities of our economy and politics that those who refuse to engage the issue on this basis bear the burden of showing why.

## Politics' dark passions

Once you get a look at the evil smirk captured by the mugshot of Jared Lee Loughner, it's hard to believe that mere heated political rhetoric was the decisive factor in his allegedly pulling the trigger over and over and over again.

But that doesn't mean there's no link between politics and violence, or even, to some degree, mental illness.

A psychologist will tell you that plenty of factors may push an unstable person over the edge. In a democracy such as ours, politics has to be one of them. After all, political discourse provides our primary narrative of good versus bad, a morality tale upon which everyone projects their fears and hopes, anxieties and dreams.

Think about it: Alienation is the mother's milk of politics. Candidates and activists routinely poke, prod and leverage the public's dissatisfaction. "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" the presidential campaigns ask ad nauseam. Politicians offer us a vision of a better future, and stoke our anger over real or imagined threats to "our way of life." Politics is not the realm of the contented, satisfied and, dare I say, well adjusted.

Plenty of critics have decried the dark passions in the public debate over the last few years. But passionate intensity has a proper place in political rhetoric. Indeed, despite all of our attempts to pretend that the political process is a reasonable debate among competing interests, it is passion and emotion that drive it. What great political achievement was accomplished without a bruising fight and intense emotions?

It shouldn't be surprising, then, that political passion can be easily exploited, or that it could attract the delusional or generally excite violence. Back in the day, guns were brandished in Congress; Southerner Preston Brooks took a gold-tipped cane to abolitionist Charles Sumner in the Senate chamber.

In the 1960s, Swiss psychiatrist Marie-Louise von Franz theorized that rather than face their defects as individuals, citizens or supporters of a particular cause, people project their worst flaws onto their political opponents. When a congressman yells "You lie" at the president, maybe he's revealing his own failings. "Political agitation in all countries," Von Franz wrote, "is full of such projections, just as much as the backyard gossip of little groups and individuals."

Over the last century, the average citizen's expectations of what government can deliver have grown exponentially. Even "tea party" proponents of small government, for example, demand that Washington keep its hands off Medicare and Social Security. That suggests that government, and the politics that underlie it, looms powerfully in the public's imagination today.

A few years ago, Engin F. Isin, a Canadian political scientist, identified the "neurotic citizen," driven by fear, anxiety, insecurity and the unrealistic belief that government can fix it all. That citizen, he argued, develops such an overgrown sense of entitlement that he feels it's a matter of justice that nothing adverse should ever happen to him. "Thus," Isin wrote, "the neurotic citizen is thrown into chronic discontent" and has a tendency "to shift responsibility to

By **GREGORY RODRIGUEZ**

Special to the Los Angeles Times

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objects outside itself with hostility."

Entitlement isn't the only thing stoking explosive political hostility. Identity politics and the culture wars, and the way political discourse uses them as proxies for every agenda, increasingly focus our national conversation on deeply symbolic emotional matters. Throw in the electronic media—with its preference for gossip, controversy and heated, even hateful, ideas—and you have a politics that can't help but bring out the worst in us.

Nor does the distance between the seats of power and the La-Z-Boy help matters. In a complex, corporatized and globalized world in which distant decisions can have huge ramifications, conspiracy theories abound, breeding suspicion and distrust.

Just because politics wasn't the direct cause of the killings in Tucson doesn't let it off the hook. For good or ill, political discourse manipulates and magnifies whatever is bothering us, divides us as winners and losers, and feeds off and creates constant anxiety. None of that may have been enough to make the shooter do it, but is it any wonder he chose politics as the arena for his attack?

## Obama rediscovers his voice

In the aftermath of the Tucson shootings, I wondered what had happened to the Barack Obama who dazzled the world during the presidential campaign.

"Where is the Obama who could summon the nation and call its people to greatness?" I wrote after watching the president appear before the cameras the day of the shooting. That day, he seemed cold and distant, disconnected from what America was feeling.

Then he traveled to Tucson on Wednesday.

Obama performed brilliantly. His words at the memorial for the victims struck the right tone. His delivery was on target. Not only did he manage to connect with the powerful emotions of the American people, but he successfully and credibly built a narrative that eulogized those who lost their lives and gave praise to those who performed bravely, while making the crucial case that the country should and could do better.

Earlier I wrote that Obama needed to help guide the power of the moment in a constructive direction, but he failed miserably on that first day. That's exactly what he did on Wednesday night in his speech at Tucson.

Some readers wrote complaining that I suggested the president should exploit the moment for political purposes. That wasn't my point at all. This tragedy has the potential to change America for the better.

We already knew the president had the capacity to inspire. That's

why it was so disappointing that his first appearance, with the nation riveted, fell so flat. Fortunately for him and for this country, he got it right this time.

Obama can come across as cold and detached. Perhaps that's the result of his early years when, as he revealed in his first book, he learned not to show his emotions. But he always does better in front of large crowds.

When he spoke of 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green and the camera showed her young, heart-broken parents, his words rang true. His clenched jaw held back the tears that Michelle Obama in the front row was allowed to shed.

And when he brought good news about Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' recovery, the whole nation cheered together. There could be no more unifying moment.

I was afraid Obama would completely side-step the debate that erupted after the attack. The efforts to pin the blame for the shootings on a certain segment of the political spectrum were misguided.

But concerns over the growing viciousness of political discourse in America have resonated for a reason. Legitimate deliberation to resolve genuine disagreements has fermented into poisonous attacks that undermine the workings of American democracy.

Obama was right to acknowledge and weigh in on the discussion. And he did it smoothly when he said we shouldn't "use this tragedy as one more occasion to turn on one another." And yet, he noted

By **FRIDA GHITIS**

The Miami Herald

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what has happened to the political tone, speaking of "point-scoring and pettiness," as well as growing polarization.

He also affirmed correctly that we are right to use this moment to look at matters such as gun control laws and care for the mentally ill.

In recent years, mass shootings have become almost routine, gradually losing the power to shock. It's reassuring to see this time the carnage captured the nation's attention. With the guidance of the country's leaders, perhaps something will change to prevent more massacres.

Americans are fond of declaring this is the greatest country on earth. What makes a nation great is how it works to improve itself—to right its wrongs, to repair what needs mending. That requires the honesty to recognize its flaws and a determination to seek relentlessly to correct them.






In Tucson, Obama rediscovered his voice, beckoning America in a time of tragedy to aim for genuine greatness.



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# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲84 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼76

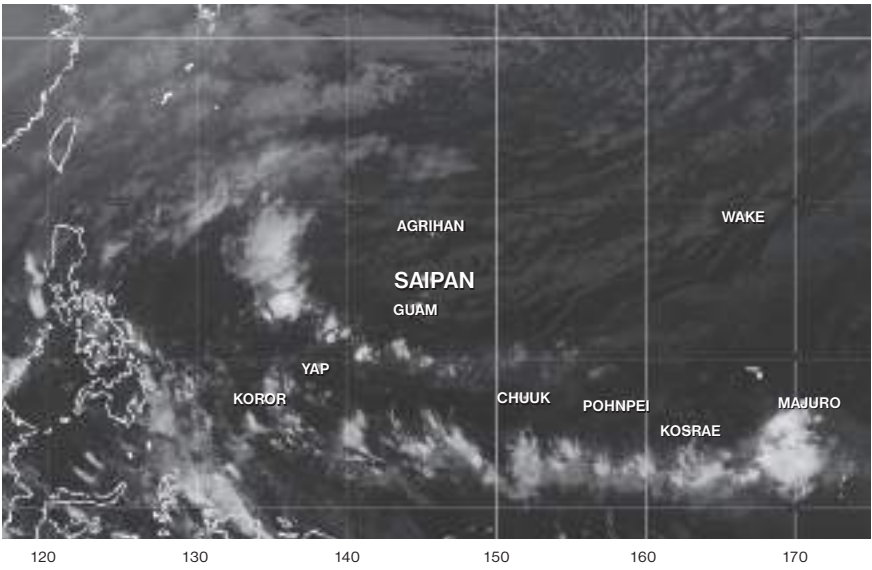
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲75 ▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲31 ▼11
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼46
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼69
London	Snow	▲45 ▼35
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲72 ▼48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼60
Miami	Showers	▲74 ▼47
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲23 ▼14
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▼35
Paris	Showers	▲41 ▼35
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲44 ▼25
Rome	Rain	▲43 ▼37
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲51 ▼35
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67 ▼48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲29 ▼12
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲50 ▼35
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲29 ▼22

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:16 AM	Today	High Tide:	0.5 Feet	
9:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	2.1 Feet	
3:52 PM	Today	High Tide:	0.9 Feet	
9:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	2.0 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



#### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches southwestward from 17N180 to north of Pohnpei at 10N159E then curves northwestward to end at 14N135E. Clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 250 miles north of the shear line. A few thunderstorms are also occurring along the shear line north of Yap between 144E and 135E. A surface trough runs northward from 11N133E to 18N132E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near the trough axis or north of Koror between 12N and 19N from 131E to 135E. Converging surface winds are coupling with divergent upper-level winds to produce scattered showers west and south of Koror or within 60 miles of a line from 8N131E to 5N131E to EQ136E and also just to the east of Koror between 6N and 9N from 135E to 137E. Similar weather is also seen southwest of Chuuk within 160 miles of a line from 6N143E to 2N150E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae within 80 miles of a line from 4N151E to 2N155E to 3N164E to 4N170E. Trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers over Majuro and Mili atolls within 80 miles of a line from 4N170E to 5N172E to 2N180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:35 PM	8:21 AM
Sunday	9:34 PM	9:06 AM
Monday	10:32 PM	9:51 AM
Tuesday	11:30 PM	10:35 AM
Wednesday		11:22 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
<b>CATHOLIC</b> 			
<b>Mt. Carmel Cathedral</b> Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
<b>Korean Center</b> Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
<b>Kristo Rai Parish</b> Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
<b>Santa Soledad Mission Parish</b> Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children’s mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
<b>Saint Jude Parish</b> Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
<b>San Antonio Parish</b> Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
<b>San Francisco de Borja-Rota</b> Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro Wednesday:6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
<b>San Isidro-Rota</b> Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
<b>San Jose (Oleai) Parish</b> Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991 <b>San Roque Parish</b> Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English			
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady’s Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong’s cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
<b>San Vicente Parish</b> Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
<b>Santa Remedios</b> Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 <sup>st</sup> Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
<b>PROTESTANT</b> 			
<b>Born Again Christian</b> (Upper Room Int’l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
<b>Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
<b>Chinese Christian Church of Saipan</b> Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
<b>Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan</b> Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
<b>Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan</b> St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions			
<b>Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children’s church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
<b>Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan</b> Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)			
Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
<b>Immanuel United Methodist Church</b> Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children’s Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
<b>Immanuel Methodist Church</b> (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
<b>Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan</b> Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
<b>Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
<b>Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
<b>Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan</b> English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
<b>Missions Connection Ministry</b> Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
<b>Northern Marianas Christian Church</b> Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620			
<b>Marianas Bible Fellowship Center</b> Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
<b>Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)</b> Home worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
<b>Saipan Christian Church</b> Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm			
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
<b>Saipan Church of Christ</b> Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
<b>Saipan Community Church</b> (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
<b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan</b> (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
<b>First Baptist Church Koblerville</b> Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
<b>Thy Word Ministries Saipan</b> Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
<b>Upper Room International Ministries</b> Sunday 5:30 am-6:30 am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
<b>Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
<b>VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Formerly God’s Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women’s Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			
Editor’s Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call <i>Saipan Tribune</i> at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.			

# Business

## Google co-founder Page to replace Schmidt as CEO

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Eric Schmidt, a technology veteran brought in as Google Inc.’s “adult supervision” a decade ago, is relinquishing the CEO job to Larry Page, one of the prodigies who co-founded the company behind the Internet’s dominant gateway.

The surprise shake-up announced Thursday appears to be driven by Schmidt’s desire to tackle other challenges as much as Page’s personal ambition.

“Day-to-day adult supervision no longer needed!” Schmidt wrote on his Twitter account moments after Google dropped the bombshell that upstaged its fourth-quarter earnings. Schmidt, 55, will become executive chairman and remain available to advise Page, 37, and Google’s other 37-year-old founder, Sergey Brin. Under the new pecking order effective April 4, Page will reclaim the CEO job that he held for three years before the two venture capitalist firms backing Google in its early days insisted that a more mature leader be brought aboard.

That led to the 2001 hiring of Schmidt, a professorial engineer who was previously chief technology officer at Sun Microsystems Inc. and CEO of Novell Inc., both much bigger than Google at the time. After initially resisting Google’s overtures, Schmidt bonded with Page and Brin to form a brain trust that proceeded to build the Internet’s most powerful company.

Google now boasts a market

value of more than \$200 billion, a success story that has placed Page, Brin and Schmidt among the world’s wealthiest people. The three men are Google’s largest individual shareholders, stakes that turned them all into multibillionaires.

But as Google has grown into a company with more than 24,000 employees, its decision-making increasingly has bogged down into a bureaucracy. The managerial constipation and joint decision-making by the trio threatened to put Google at a competitive disadvantage as younger, more nimble Internet services such as Facebook pounce on new trends to lure away users and advertisers. At Facebook, 26-year-old founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg calls the shots in an entrepreneurial culture that has enticed dozens of engineers to leave Google to work for the social networking company.

“My goal is to run Google at the pace and with the soul and passion of a startup,” Page said in a Thursday interview. “I think I will have time to do that given the way we have split up our responsibilities.”

Schmidt concurred in the same interview, saying Google’s triumvirate decided they needed to find ways for the company to run more crisply.

“I am not as concerned about the titles as I am winning,” Schmidt said. “I am quite certain that this change will result in faster decision making and better value for the shareholders.”

## Wal-Mart to make, sell healthier foods

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wal-Mart, the nation’s largest grocer, says it will reformulate thousands of products to make them healthier and push its suppliers to do the same, joining first lady Michelle Obama’s effort to combat childhood obesity.

The first lady accompanied Wal-Mart executives Thursday as they announced the effort in Washington. The company plans to reduce sodium and added sugars in some items, build stores in poor areas that don’t already have grocery stores, reduce prices on produce and develop a logo for healthier items.

“No family should have to choose between food that is healthier for them and food they can afford,” said Bill Simon, president and CEO of Wal-Mart’s U.S. division.

As the largest grocer in the United States, Wal-Mart’s size gives it unique power to shape what people eat. The grocery business is nearly twice the size of No. 2 competitor Kroger. The company also has massive influence on products made by other manufacturers and sold at the store.

Mrs. Obama said the announcement has “the potential to transform the marketplace and help Americans put healthier foods on their tables every single day.”

“We are really gaining some momentum on this issue, we’re beginning to see things move,” she said.

The nation’s largest retailer plans to reduce sodium by a quarter and cut added sugars in some of its private label products by 2015. It also plans to remove remaining industrially produced trans fats. The foods Wal-Mart will concentrate on our products like lunch meats, fruit juices and salad dressings, items that contain high levels of sugar or sodium that consumers don’t know they’re ingesting..

A number of food makers have made similar moves, lowering sodium in their products based on shopper demand and increasing scrutiny by health groups. Bumble Bee Foods, General Mills Inc., Campbell Soup Co., PepsiCo Inc. and Kraft Foods Inc. all announced sodium reductions to their products last year.



# Nation

## Doctor: Giffords felt sunshine from hospital deck

**TUCSON, Ariz.** (AP)—Gabrielle Giffords on Thursday felt the sunshine on her face for the first time since she was shot, as doctors prepared her to leave behind the Arizona hospital where she dazzled them with her rapid recovery.

Her next stop will be a Houston rehab center, where she will face an even more arduous task: Getting life back to normal.

Her husband said he's hoping she'll make a full recovery, calling her "a fighter like nobody else that I know."

The doctors who will help her offered a more sober outlook.

"Not everyone always gets 100 percent restoration, but we help them to get to a new normal," said Carl Josehart, chief executive of the rehab hospital that will be the Arizona congresswoman's home for the next month or two.

Giffords is recovering from a bullet wound to the brain, but has been making progress nearly everyday.

Late Thursday, trauma surgeon, Dr. Peter Rhee, said staff at University Medical Center in Tucson helped Giffords stand and get into a wheelchair. They then took her to a deck at the hospital, where she breathed in the fresh air and felt the sun.

"I saw the biggest smile she could gather," Rhee said, noting that Giffords loves the outdoors. "We are very happy to have her enjoying the sunshine of Arizona," he said.

Earlier, doctors ticked off other markers of her continuing improvement: She scrolled through an iPad, picked out different colored objects and moved her lips. They are unsure whether she is mouthing words, nor do they know how much she is able to see. Her husband, Houston-based astronaut Mark Kelly, believes she has tried to speak and can recognize those around her.



*Democratic congresswoman from Arizona*

### Gabrielle Giffords

**Early life**  
Born June 8, 1970, Tucson, Ariz.

**Education** B.A., Scripps College; masters degree, Cornell University; Fulbright scholar

**Family** Married to NASA astronaut Mark Kelly who piloted shuttles Endeavor and Discovery

**Career**  
**Before politics** CEO for her family's Tucson tire and automotive business

**2001-05** Served a term in both the Arizona House and Senate

**2006** Elected to U.S. Congress; member of Blue Dog Coalition of Democrats who push for conservative budget and tax policies; serves on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs and Science and Technology committees

**Pro-immigration** Supports tough border security with long-term path to citizenship for illegal immigrants

**Voted for health care bill** Hours after the bill passed, her Tucson office was vandalized

**2010** won election to third term in close race with tea party favorite

**2011** Shot by assailant while meeting with constituents outside a Tucson supermarket

© 2011 MCT  
Source: Giffords congressional web site, AP, Reuters, MCT Photo Service  
Graphic: Judy Trelole, Tim Goheen

"I can just look in her eyes and tell," Kelly said at a final briefing at the Tucson hospital. "She is very aware of the situation."

Giffords is expected to be moved on Friday morning, traveling by ambulance to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base with an escort from a group of motorcycle riders from a Veterans of Foreign Wars post who know her.

Kelly, Rhee, Giffords' mother, Gloria; an intensive care unit nurse and Giffords' chief of staff will be among those on the medical flight to William P. Hobby Airport in Houston.

From there, she will be moved by helicopter to TIRR Memorial Hermann hospital. U.S. Capitol police arrived Thursday afternoon to set up extra security measures at the 119-bed facility that is part of the massive Texas Medical Center complex.

Josehart declined to say if Giffords' family had made any special requests, saying, "she's not our patient yet."

The first three days of her stay will involve comprehensive medical and psychological evaluations so a detailed treatment plan can be developed, Josehart said.

Giffords will stay at Memorial Hermann until she no longer needs 24-hour medical care—the average is one to two months. Then she can continue getting up to five hours a day of physical and other rehab therapies on an outpatient basis, he said.

"It's hard to speculate on the trajectory or course that any one patient will have," he said.

Despite the steady progress, Giffords has a long road to recovery. Doctors are not sure what, if any, disability she will have.

Sometimes, areas of the brain that seem damaged can recover, said Mark Sherer, a neuropsychologist at the rehab center.

## More than 120 are busted in Northeast Mafia crackdown

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Federal authorities orchestrated one of the biggest Mafia takedowns in FBI history Thursday, charging 127 suspected mobsters and associates in the Northeast with murders, extortion and other crimes spanning decades.

Past investigations have resulted in strategic strikes aimed at crippling individual crime families. This time, authorities used a shotgun approach, with some 800 federal agents and police officers making scores of simultaneous arrests stemming from different mob investigations in New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

They also used fanfare: Attorney General Eric Holder made a trip to New York to announce the operation at a news conference with the city's top law enforcement officials.

As of late Thursday, 125 had been arrested, including four who were already behind bars.

Holder called the arrests "an important and encouraging step forward in disrupting La Cosa Nostra's operations." But he and others also cautioned that the mob, while having lost some of the swagger of the John Gotti era, is known for adapting to adversity and finding new ways of making money and spreading violence.

"Members and associates of La Cosa Nostra are among the most dangerous criminals in our country," Holder said. "The very oath of allegiance sworn by these Mafia members during their initiation ceremony binds them to a life of crime."

In the past, the FBI has aggressively pursued and imprisoned the leadership of the city's five Italian mob families, only to see ambitious underlings fill the vacancies, said Janice Fedarcyk, head of the FBI's New York office.

"We deal in reality, and the reality is that the mob, like nature, abhors a vacuum," she said.

However, the FBI has gained a recent advantage by cultivating a crop of mob figures willing to wear wires and testify against gangsters in exchange for leniency in their own cases.

"The vow of silence that is part of the oath of omerta is more myth than reality today," she said.

In the latest cases, authorities say turncoats recorded thousands of conversations of suspected mobsters. Investigators also tapped their phones.

In sheer numbers, the takedown eclipsed those from a highly publicized assault on the Gambino crime family in 2008, when authorities rounded up 62 suspects. All but one of the arrests resulted in guilty pleas.

The deluge of defendants Thursday forced the FBI to move processing—normally done at its lower Manhattan headquarters—to a gym at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn. The defendants, most arrested in raids at dawn, stood in line in handcuffs while waiting to be photographed and fingerprinted.

In Brooklyn, three judges in three separate courtrooms were needed to enter pleas and decide bail for dozens of defendants. Normally, one is on duty.



U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, right, listens as New York's FBI Director Janice Fedarcyk speaks during a press conference announcing organized crime arrests on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011 in New York.

## NASA gives go-ahead to another shuttle flight

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—NASA doesn't know yet where it will get the money, but on Thursday the space agency officially added another space shuttle launch to its schedule—the final one for the fleet.

The space agency set a target launch date of June 28 for shuttle Atlantis and started preparations for the 135th and last shuttle flight. The four-member crew will take up supplies to the International Space Station and return a faulty pump that has bedeviled engineers.

Now three missions remain before NASA retires its shuttle fleet this year.

Shuttle Discovery's last mission is slated for Feb. 24, Endeavour's in April.

Thursday's move allows different parts of the shuttle program to start work on Atlantis' 12-day flight, including astronaut training and mission planning, NASA spokesman Michael Curie said. Originally, Atlantis was planned as an emergency-only rescue mission if needed for the Endeavour crew.

Last year, the Obama administration and Congress clashed over the future of the human space program and came up with a compromise that authorized one extra flight of the shuttle—the Atlantis mission. But Congress never gave

NASA the few hundred million dollars needed for the extra flight. That left NASA in a quandary about whether the flight was real or not.

The initial money is coming from the space shuttle program's regular budget, but that is not the big dollar amounts needed for a shuttle flight, Curie said.

"We're optimistic that the funding will be there," Curie said, but he couldn't give details about where the money will come from.

NASA was under the gun to start preparations. Otherwise, the Atlantis mission wouldn't have been able to launch in late June, Curie said.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Midwest storm blamed for at least 6 traffic deaths

**ST. LOUIS** (AP)—A winter storm that blew across the Midwest on Thursday was blamed for at least six traffic deaths in the region, as it dumped more than a foot of snow in some parts and was expected to leave sub-zero temperatures in its wake. The wintry weather also closed down schools and offices and sent plows and salt trucks working overtime to clear the roads.

In western Indiana, three people driving to a funeral were killed when their car collided with a semitrailer on a state road near the town of Waveland, about 50 miles west of Indianapolis, around 10 a.m. Montgomery County sheriff's Chief Deputy Ryan Needham identified the victims as 25-year-old Anthony Suggs of Ruskin, Fla., 21-year-old Logan R. Mills of Suwanee, Ga., and 25-year-old Amanda S. Mills of Buford, Ga.

#### Charlie Manson follower has slim chance at parole

**CORONA, Calif.** (AP)—A follower of Charles Manson who has been imprisoned longer than any other woman in California told a parole board Thursday she threw away everything good in herself and became a "monster" after she met Manson. Patricia Krenwinkel, who was convicted in the Sharon Tate killings, is one of Manson's two surviving female followers. She has maintained a

clean prison record in her four decades behind bars, but her chances for release appeared slim following parole rejections in other Manson cases. The board was expected to rule later in the day.

#### 2 officers, suspect killed during Miami shootout

**MIAMI** (AP)—A shootout erupted Thursday in a notoriously crime-ridden section of Miami as a team of heavily armed law enforcement agents tried to

serve a murder warrant, leaving two officers and a suspect dead, authorities said. Miami-Dade Police Director James Loftus said 21-year veteran Roger Castillo had been shot once and died at the scene. Amanda Haworth, a 23-year veteran, was taken to a hospital and later died from several gunshot wounds. Officer Oscar Placencia shot and killed the suspect, 22-year-old Johnny Simms, who had been armed with a handgun, Loftus said.



# Asia

## Hu urges closer US-China ties as world powers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Chinese President Hu Jintao denied his country is a military threat despite its arms buildup and pressed the U.S. on Thursday for closer cooperation between the global powers. He urged the United States to treat China “with respect and as equals” after encountering a fresh barrage of criticism from lawmakers over human rights.

In a luncheon speech to American business executives, Hu also urged the U.S. to continue to recognize China’s sovereignty over Taiwan and Tibet.

“China-U.S. relations will enjoy smooth and steady growth when the two countries handle well issues involving each other’s major interests. Otherwise, our relations will suffer constant trouble or even tension,” Hu said as he wrapped up his state visit to Washington. The Chinese leader headed next to Chicago where he was dining Thursday evening with retiring Mayor Richard Daley, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn and business leaders. On Friday, he visits a Chinese center at a high school and a Chinese auto parts producer.

Earlier Thursday, Hu went to Capitol Hill for closed-door meetings with members of the House and the Senate. Participants said he got an earful of complaints from some of his



**Hu Jintao**

Chinese president

### Early life

**Born** 1942 in Taizhou, Jiangsu Education Tsinghua University, Beijing, hydraulic engineering  
**Joined Communist Party** in 1964 at height of the Cultural Revolution

### Rise in politics

**1980s** Rises to general secretary of the Chinese Communist Youth League

**1985** Party secretary for Guizhou province; helped implement educational and economic reforms

**1987** Named a member of the Chinese Community Party (CCP) Central Committee; sent to Tibet as a provincial party secretary

**1998** Vice president of China

**2002** General secretary of the CCP

### Hu as president

**2003** Elected president; term ends 2013

• Vows to create a more equal society and a more sustainable economy

• Has cut taxes and education costs for poor farmers and sped up health care reform

Source: Reuters, BBC, MCT Photo Service  
Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2011 MCT

strongest congressional critics, especially over China’s business and trade practices and human rights conduct.

President Barack Obama had expressed similar human rights concerns a day earlier at the White House.

House Speaker John Boeh-

ner, R-Ohio, said House members “raised our strong, ongoing concerns with reports of human rights violations in China, including the denial of religious freedom and the use of coercive abortion” as a result of China’s one-child policy.

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said she gave Hu a copy of a letter she sent to Obama highlighting “grave concerns” over human rights, currency manipulation and aggressive military gestures.

“Out of all the issues I raised, the only one which received a response from Mr. Hu was my statement urging the end of China’s forced abortion policy. I was astonished when he insisted that such a policy does not exist,” she said.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he raised issues of trade, Chinese currency policies and a need for more Chinese investment and tourism in the U.S.

“Although we have our differences, we look forward to strengthening our relationship in a way that allows us to address global economic and security issues,” Reid said.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass, said the past year has been a challenging one in U.S.-China relations.

killed four people. It denies, however, attacking the navy ship Cheonan that sank in March, killing 46 sailors.

Inter-Korean relations have been complicated by a power transition under way in the North, where leader Kim Jong Il is believed to be grooming his youngest son Kim Jong Un to succeed him. Some analysts say the ship sinking and the artillery attack were carried out to display the younger Kim’s mettle to North Korea’s military and bolster his legitimacy as the next leader.

would be monitored before the ban is lifted, said Sunan Arunopparat, chief of the National Parks Department.

### Australian flood crisis threatens city and towns

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (AP)—Rural towns in Australia’s southeast and the nation’s third largest city were on flood watch Friday as rivers surged in a weeklong flood crisis that has created widespread dev-

astation across the continent. Residents of Brisbane, the capital of northeast Queensland state which was devastated by flooding last week, were sandbagging low-lying homes again as a high tide was expected on the main river that snakes through the city. People living in low-lying areas were urged to be prepared, according to a statement issued by Brisbane Mayor Campbell Newman. The Brisbane River is expected to remain high until Sunday.

# World

## Wiretaps of Berlusconi’s parties capture Italians

ROME (AP)—For gossip-loving Italians, it’s a feast. To others, it may be more than they ever wanted to know about their premier, Silvio Berlusconi, his purported sexual appetites and parties with topless girls—or, in one case, with a woman told to dress in a sexy nurse’s uniform.

Italian newspapers are filled with embarrassing leaks of wiretaps ordered by Milan prosecutors as part of their prostitution probe targeting the 74-year-old Italian leader and his alleged encounters with a Moroccan teenager, known as Ruby.

The premier has denied wrongdoing and denounced the violation of his privacy.

Still, transcripts of the purported conversations involving Ruby, women who attended parties in Berlusconi’s villa near Milan and some of the premier’s aides and friends offer a glimpse into an indulgent lifestyle that critics say is inappropriate for a public official.

In some purported conversations, Berlusconi’s house is described as a brothel with topless girls dancing around; the premier himself is described as a

“caricature” by one guest and as having gained weight and having become ugly by another.

Other published wiretaps have a woman identified as Ruby saying that Berlusconi was willing to pay for her silence.

“If even just a third of the mind-blowing lifestyle that emerges from the Milan prosecutors’ material is truthful, then we would be faced with the decline of a man who has been an important protagonist of the last 30 years of Italy’s public life. I’m talking about Silvio Berlusconi,” said a front-page editorial by Libero, a conservative newspaper close to Berlusconi that chose to publish huge portions of the wiretaps this week.

Prosecutors have placed Berlusconi and three associates under investigation, on suspicion that the premier between February and May paid for sex with the Moroccan girl, then a minor, and used his office to cover it up. Prosecutors have said in a document that “a significant number of young women... have prostituted themselves with Silvio Berlusconi.”

Paying for sex with a prostitute

is not a crime in Italy, but it is if the prostitute is younger than 18.

Transcripts of the wiretaps—389 pages—were sent from the Milan prosecutors to a parliamentary commission in Rome examining documents relating to the investigation. For the past days, the wiretaps have been gleefully published on virtually every Italian newspaper’s front page. The official document by Milan prosecutors has been widely distributed on file-sharing Internet sites. A person with knowledge of the documents has confirmed some of the material to The Associated Press. The person requested anonymity because publishing the wiretaps is a violation of the subjects’ privacy.

Berlusconi, a billionaire media tycoon, has denied ever paying for sex. The premier went on the attack Wednesday when he said the Milan prosecutors should be punished for conducting what he said was an illegitimate and politically motivated probe. He said the prosecutors have employed means and forces “as if they had to carry out a raid against the Mafia.”

## Baby Doc slips out of Haiti hotel to private home

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** (AP)—Former dictator Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier slipped out the back of his hotel Thursday and was driven to a private home on a mountain above Haiti’s capital, in the latest unexpected twist in his surprise return to the country that kicked him out nearly 25 years ago.

Duvalier, who faces a court investigation in Haiti, had a flight booked to leave the country in the morning along with his entourage. But as the day wore on it became clear the ex-“president for life,” who is 59 and showing signs of ailing health, wasn’t going anywhere.

The reasons for his prolonged

stay remain as murky as his motivation for coming back in the first place, but advisers and confidants cite two primary motivations: the lack of a valid passport and the ongoing court investigation against him on allegations of corruption and human-rights abuses from his reign.

As his scheduled flight took off he was still in the international-style hotel in Petionville, where he had stayed in a standard room. After a group lunch on its covered patio restaurant his girlfriend, Veronique Roy, walked to a waiting car at the hotel’s main door to draw off most of the press while he was shepherded to a separate car

behind the compound on a concrete loading dock.

He ended up in a private home. The court cases followed too, with investigating Judge Carves Jean and Haiti’s chief prosecutor, Auguste Aristidas, among his first visitors there, Radio Metropole reported.

Defense attorney Reynold Georges told reporters earlier in the day that he couldn’t speculate how long the ex-dictator would stay in Haiti, but that it would take at least two weeks to resolve the legal cases filed against him.

“He will have to answer that question himself but for now, we’re here,” Georges said.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Car bombs kill 51 in attack on Iraqi pilgrims

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Three suicide car bombers struck Shiite pilgrims south of Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 51 people and wounding more than 180 in a third straight day of attacks across Iraq. The string of assaults, reminiscent of the bloodiest days of the Iraq war, shattered a two-month lull and presented a major challenge to the new government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who must soon decide whether to ask U.S. forces to stay after the end of the year.

#### UN: Violence, rape spread across Ivory Coast

**ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast** (AP)—The United Nations warned Thursday that violence is spreading across Ivory Coast, citing nearly two dozen rapes in the country’s west and one case where a political opponent was sexually tortured. Local U.N.

human rights chief Simon Munzu said Thursday that 23 women have been raped in the last week in western Ivory Coast, where 16,000 people have taken refuge since the disputed Nov. 28 presidential runoff vote. Another 29,000 people have fled across the border to Liberia.

#### Scientists try to mate Galapagos tortoise—again

**QUITO, Ecuador** (AP)—Will Lonesome George ever become a dad? Scientists are still hoping to mate the near century-old giant tortoise from the Galapagos—even though efforts over the past two decades have failed. The Galapagos National Park said in a statement Thursday that they are providing two new female partners for George, who is believed to be the last living member of the Geochelone abigdoni species. George is estimated to be between 90 and 100 years old—and could have at least 50 more years ahead of him.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Thailand bans diving at parks to save coral reefs

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Thailand on Thursday indefinitely banned diving at seven marine parks popular with tourists to try to protect deteriorating coral reefs. The ban applies to some 22 places in the parks where “bleaching” covers 80 percent or more of the coral reefs. The parks are on the Andaman Sea on Thailand’s west coast. The recovery of the coral



# Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, January 22, 2011

## RP Coast Guard, USCG search for missing Guam boat

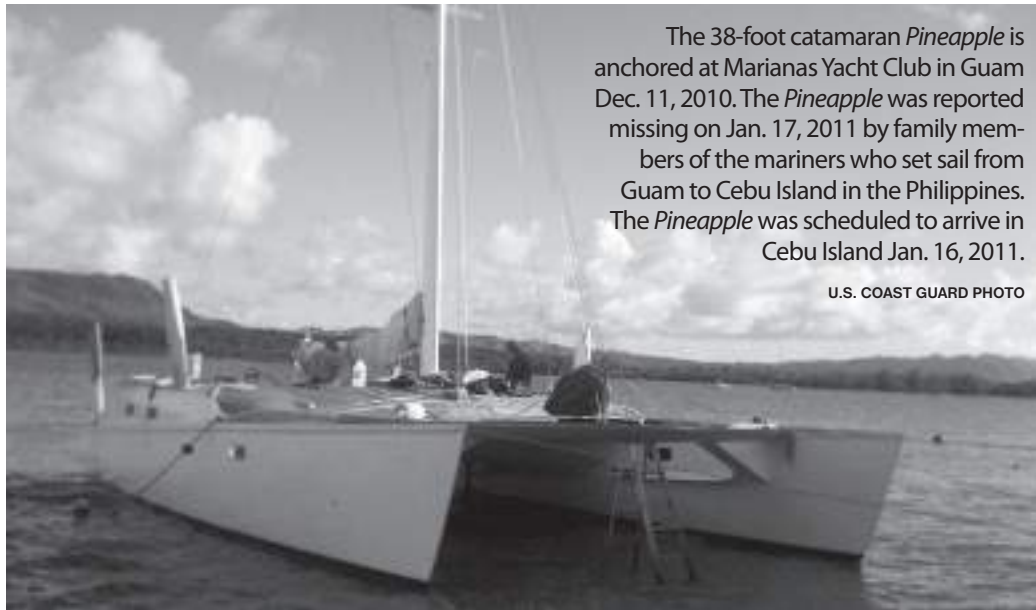
**H**ONOLULU—A Coast Guard aircrew and members of the Philippine Coast Guard are searching for five people missing aboard a catamaran sailboat who are reported to be heading to the Philippines Thursday.

Guam search and rescue coordinators received a call from family members of the crew aboard the 38-foot catamaran, *Pineapple*, who are concerned about the transit from Guam to Cebu Island in the Philippines. The *Pineapple* departed Guam Jan. 6, 2011 at 10am and was expected to arrive at Cebu Island on Jan. 16, 2011.

Coast Guard search and rescue coordinators launched an HC-130 Hercules aircraft from Air Station Barbers Point Wednesday. The aircrew is scheduled to arrive in Guam on Thursday. Guam search and rescue coordinators asked the Philippine Coast Guard to start the search.

The Coast Guard issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast and SafetyNET asking all commercial ships transiting the area to be on the lookout and report any sightings of the sailboat Monday.

The Coast Guard contacted harbor masters in Guam, Yap, Palau, and the Philippines to



The 38-foot catamaran *Pineapple* is anchored at Marianas Yacht Club in Guam Dec. 11, 2010. The *Pineapple* was reported missing on Jan. 17, 2011 by family members of the mariners who set sail from Guam to Cebu Island in the Philippines. The *Pineapple* was scheduled to arrive in Cebu Island Jan. 16, 2011.

U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO

report any contact with the *Pineapple*.

"Although weather conditions make sail transits difficult to predict, the planned voyage was supposed to take seven to 10 days with the sailboat arriving in the Philippines no later than Sunday," Lt. j.g. Justin Valentino, a search and rescue coordinator for Guam.

The *Pineapple* is described as a 38-foot twin-hulled catamaran with a white hull and white sails. The sailboat has five American citizens onboard.

On scene weather conditions are reported to be 17 to 23 mph winds and five to 8-foot seas. (USCG)

## Managing a boutique in true fashionista style

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After working for a marine sports company for over a decade, Michelle Zayco has finally landed her dream job. These days, Zayco can be seen tending customers and managing the island's newest clothing shop, the Fashion Clicks Boutique.

Located at the Island Apparel Building in Puerto Rico, Fashion Clicks Boutique provides clothing aficionados with a selection of outfits that are well within anyone's budget.

"I've always loved fashion. I love clothes and I love to shop for the latest in clothing trends. I just love it," Zayco replied when asked to explain such a radical career change.

When Zayco started working for Island Apparel owner Ed Calvo, she was asked for the kind of business that would hit it off and they came up with the concept of a clothing shop.

"Being a frequent shopper myself, I wanted to provide island residents a place where they can buy affordable clothes especially in this economic situation," Zayco told *Saipan Tribune*.

With the new shop, Zayco envisioned making affordable fashion click on island, hence the name.

### Pros and cons

As the boutique manager, Zayco gets to enjoy all the perks that go with it. "Imagine, I get to be among the first to buy our latest arrivals," she said.

Zayco disclosed that her boss taught her to value the boutique as if it were her own. "My boss gave me his trust and I will do everything to continue improv-



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Some of the shirts and accessories available at Fashion Clicks Boutique.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Michelle Zayco of Fashion Clicks Boutique checks the pants in their rack at their Puerto Rico location.

ing the shop," she added.

But managing a boutique also has its challenges, said Zayco.

"I keep on coming up with marketing strategies to attract more customers to our shop. With our location and with all other clothing stores on island, it has become a challenge," she admitted.

Fortunately for Zayco, her warm personality, attentiveness to customers' needs, and their reasonably priced merchandise had proven to be effective in

making customers come back to shop for more.

### Future plans

Since the boutique only had a soft opening in November, Zayco said they only have limited but quality apparel for now.

In fact, it was Zayco's idea to have Filipino fashion designer Renee Salud create clothes for them.

The manager disclosed that they will soon have more handbags and accessories, sports at-

tires, swimwear collection, as well as footwear in their racks.

Zayco said they will slowly expand in the next few weeks, especially since the grand opening for Fashion Clicks Boutique is just around the corner.

"I'm working on getting a Philippine actor to come here to grace the ribbon cutting ceremony," she revealed.

Zayco encouraged the community to visit their shop and have a truly enjoyable and affordable shopping experience.

"Check our boutique and you'll never go wrong. You can have the clothes you want at bargain prices. We also have a 10 percent local discount," she said.

Fashion Clicks Boutique is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm and Saturday from 11am to 4pm. All major cards accepted and gift certificates also available.

For inquiries, call 288-3441, 42 or 43.

## Remittances seen to breach \$18B in 2010

By MICHELLE REMO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Overseas Filipinos sent home \$1.6 billion in November, bringing total remittances for the first 11 months of 2010 to \$17 billion, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported Monday.

The central bank said demand for Filipino workers by employers in various parts of the globe remained strong.

Remittances in November were up nearly 11 percent from the \$1.5 billion recorded in the same month of the previous year. The January-November level was also up 8.2 percent from \$15.8 billion in the first 11 months of 2009.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the growing demand for Filipino workers must be credited to their diversified skills, adding that government efforts to seek employment deals with host countries also helped increase the deployment rate.

The central bank said in its report that remittances from January to November last year came mostly from the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Japan, the United Kingdom,

United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Italy, Germany and Norway.

The BSP said the move of Philippine-based banks to open remittance centers and engage in tie-ups with money transfer agents in various countries has made it easier for overseas Filipinos to send money to the Philippines.

According to projections made earlier by the BSP, remittances for 2010 would hit \$18.79 billion, marking an 8-percent increase from the \$17.4 billion registered in 2009.

"Given the steady levels of remittances through November, the projected full year 2010 remittance level will likely be achieved," Tetangco said.

Citing documents from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, approved job orders for Filipino workers totaled 624,045 last year.

The newly hired Filipinos were expected to continue fueling remittances to the Philippines this year, the central bank said. For 2011, the BSP said it expected another 8-percent growth in remittances.

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# Philippines now surpasses India in call-center jobs

By MICHELLE YUN and  
KATHY CHU  
USA TODAY

**CEBU CITY, Philippines**—Help-wanted ads dot I.T. Park, an eclectic enclave of call centers, restaurants and clubs in the Southeast Asian city of Cebu City in the Philippines. One from U.S. banking giant JPMorgan Chase encourages job seekers to “work directly for the first multinational financial services firm to establish a Global Service Center in Cebu.”

Nearby, workers set up a booth to recruit workers for TeleTech, an Englewood, Colo., firm that operates call centers in the Philippines, Latin America and elsewhere for U.S. banks, telecom and technology firms.

For the past decade, the Philippines has been an attractive call-center destination due to its educated, English-speaking population. But its appeal is at an all-time high as the Philippines inches past India as the largest call-center operator in the world.

“It’s a bit of a coming-out party, because the Philippines has been undermarketed,” says John McCarthy, an outsourcing expert at Forrester Research in Cambridge, Mass. “Clearly, the Philippines has become the preferred [call-center] location for companies serving Americans.”

The Philippines now leads India in call-center jobs, employing 350,000 compared with India’s 330,000, according to the Contact Center Association of the Philippines, which represents the country’s call-center operators. The association estimates that Philippines call centers produced \$6.3 billion in revenue last year, and that the figure will grow by 15 percent to 20 percent a year as multinationals increasingly set up shop. In comparison, India’s call centers likely generated \$5.6 billion to \$5.9 billion in revenue last year, according to Dallas-based advisory firm Everest Group.

Some American companies such as US Airways are pulling back on call centers in the Philippines. But many others—including Citi and Chase—are outsourcing customer calls, back-office work or other operations to the country.

For U.S. consumers, the trend means that they’ll be increasingly routed to an agent in the Philippines when they call their bank, insurer or computer company.

And they probably won’t even know it’s happening.

“The thing that the Philippines excels in is that they have the most accent-neutral language,” says Kevin Campbell, group chief executive for technology, for Accenture, which has more than 20,000

employees in the Philippines developing software, doing accounting and answering customer calls, among other things, for clients.

Filipinos’ English-language skills—English is one of the country’s official languages—mean that outsourced calls are less obvious. Customers are also more likely to have their issues resolved the first time they call because it may be easier to communicate with a Filipino representative than an Indian one, says Richard Bledsoe, a TeleTech executive vice president of operations who is based in Pasay City, outside Manila.

In addition, the Philippines has “an absolutely fantastic service culture,” an important component in keeping cranky customers satisfied, says Jane Lockwood, an associate professor at the City University of Hong Kong who provides training for call centers. “They go out of their way, not just in call centers, but in tourism and events management, to ensure people are well looked after.”

Even Indian firms are seeing the benefits of doing business in the Philippines. WNS, a global outsourcing provider based in India, opened its first call center in Manila with more than 200 employees in 2008. WNS now employs more than 1,300 in the city, answering calls for consumers looking for help with items such as booking plane tickets.

“Some clients are very conscious about accents, and definitely prefer the Philippines over locations in India,” says Keshav Murugesh, CEO of WNS, whose U.S. and U.K. clients include T-Mobile and Virgin Atlantic.

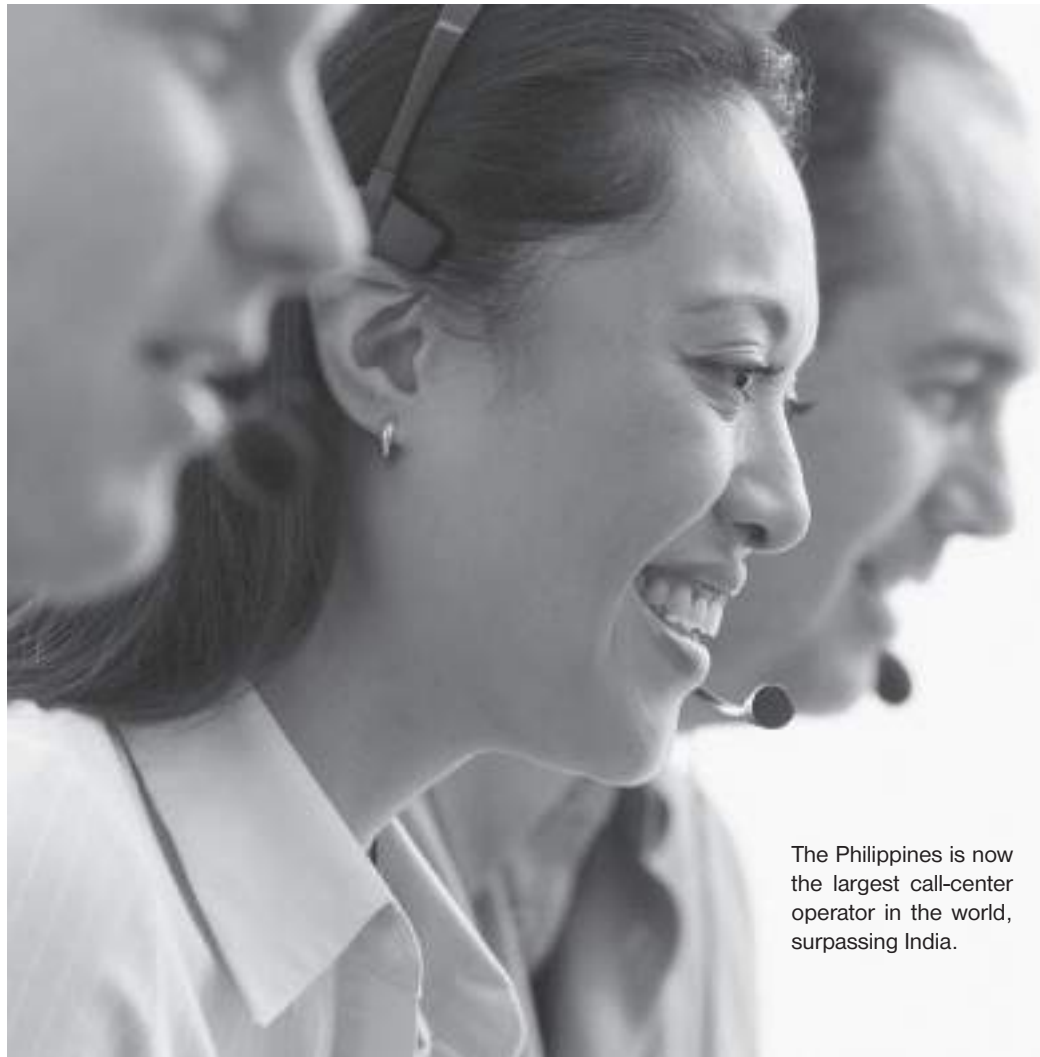
For U.S. consumers, what often matters most is not where calls are directed but whether agents can resolve their problems.

“It was very frustrating,” says Kaylene Lewek, of Raleigh, N.C., about a recent call to her computer company. “I had a number of different problems with my computer, and it was very obvious they were using a script. They couldn’t answer anything that deviated from it.”

Lewek, 26, says she also found the agent’s Indian accent hard to understand.

Philippines’ call centers serve a diverse range of companies—from banks to airlines and insurers—in English-speaking countries such as Australia and the United Kingdom. But the Philippines’ embrace of American culture makes it particularly attractive for U.S. firms.

“If you were to visit the Philippines, it’s like being in small-town America. Restaurants might be showing baseball on TV, and the programming is all in English,” says Bledsoe.



The Philippines is now the largest call-center operator in the world, surpassing India.

It doesn’t hurt that Filipino employees are more than willing to work night shifts to cater to U.S. companies time zones away. Night shifts are so common that there’s a “whole industry around this industry,” says Lockwood about the bars and restaurants that open at 6 a.m. for call-center workers finishing their shifts.

In Cebu’s I.T. Park one evening, American rock music spills out of the clubs adjacent to the call centers. Young Filipinos mill about on sidewalks, some taking a break from their office jobs in nearby buildings. A female singer tries to draw passersby into a bar with “You Were Meant for Me” by American singer-songwriter Jewel.

Young Filipinos are prime candidates for call-center jobs. The positions pay the equivalent of around \$4,300 U.S. per year, according to the Business Processing Association of the Philippines, which represents the outsourcing industry, an attractive salary in a country where the average family income is just a little higher than that. In comparison, call-center jobs in the U.S.—when they can be found—may pay \$16,000 to \$22,000 a year.

The outsourcing of jobs is not a new phenomenon. Yet, it remains controversial as the U.S. jobless rate is at 9.4 percent. President Barack Obama has championed measures to rescind tax breaks for U.S. corporations that move jobs overseas. Senate Democrats introduced a bill last year to end such deductions, but Republicans opposed the measure, saying it would hurt U.S. companies and the sputtering economic recovery. American companies defend

outsourcing as a necessary way to cut costs and survive in tough economic times. Outsourcing also allows remaining employees to do things “core to their business,” says Benedict Hernandez, president of the Contact Center Association of the Philippines.

Steve Dieter, 60, of St. Louis, says he’s not extremely concerned about lower-paying call-center jobs being sent overseas. What does matter, he says, is that “skilled jobs remain in the U.S. and there be less incentive for companies to outsource” work such as software programming.

In the Philippines, the call-center industry is maturing, meaning its growth could soon hit “a plateau,” says Avinash Vashistha, CEO of Tholons, a New York-based outsourcing advisory firm.

That’s why, if the Philippines has its way, call centers will soon be one of many functions the country routinely handles. It wants to be the go-to location for all types of outsourcing services, from processing insurance claims to analyzing retail sales data.

To achieve this, the country needs to improve its education system so people can expand their skills beyond call-center work, says Ramakrishnan Chandrasekaran, president of global delivery for Cognizant, a Teaneck, N.J., provider of outsourcing services to multinationals.

Giving young people more technology training, for instance, would make the Philippines attractive to companies looking to outsource software programming or technology tasks.

development.

For now though, the vast majority of what multinationals outsource to the Philippines remains call-center work. Research and analytical services are a small but “growing niche in the Philippines,” says Donald Felbaum, a Tholons partner who is also part of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

Such services, though, hold huge growth potential as companies try to drive down operating costs. A report from the Business Processing Association of the Philippines predicts the amount generated by the global offshore services will increase 10 percent to 15 percent a year; non-voice services are expected to grow most rapidly.

Philippines President Benigno Aquino, in a December speech at the opening of IBM’s new outsourcing facilities, called the industry’s prospects “highly encouraging.”

The government predicts that services outsourced to the Philippines from around the world will generate up to \$100 billion by 2020, grabbing 20 percent of global offshoring market share.

In the next few years, U.S. consumers are likely to find their calls redirected not only to India and the Philippines, but also to Vietnam, China, Egypt, Morocco and countries in Eastern Europe and South America.

In emerging outsourcing destinations such as Vietnam and China, “the voice quality is not where it needs to be,” says Bledsoe of TeleTech. “But millions of people (are) learning English, so they will be ready at some point.”

■ ■ ■

*Chu reported from Cebu City; Yun reported from Hong Kong.*

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# India relaxes its visa rules for Filipino tourists

By **PAOLO MONTECILLO**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—The Indian government has relaxed its visa rules in a bid to attract more tourists from Southeast Asia.

In a statement, flag carrier Philippine Airlines announced that the recent decision by India Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has made it easier for residents from the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam to visit the subcontinent.

"I am happy to announce that we will extend our visa-on-arrival facility to nationals of the Philippines with effect from

January 1, 2011," PAL quoted Singh as saying.

He made the statement in a recent speech before the 8th India-Asean [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam.

"We invite many more tourists from the Asean countries to visit India to see the splendor of its rich cultural heritage," he said.

PAL's new service to New Delhi will operate six times weekly, with three non-stop flights between the two capitals and three flights routed via Bangkok.

The direct service (PR-758) departs from Manila every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday

at 9:10 p.m. Arrival at the new Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport is at 1:10 a.m. the following day.

The return flight, PR 759, departs from Delhi on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 3 a.m. and arrives in Manila at noon.

The one-stop service via Bangkok (PR752), meanwhile, departs from Manila every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:45 p.m. Arrival in the Thai capital is at 9:05 p.m. the same day and in Delhi at 1:10 a.m. the following day.

The return flight, PR753, departs Delhi on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 2:45 a.m.,

reaching Bangkok at 8:25 a.m. and Manila at 1:50 p.m. the same day.

The airline will use its wide-body Airbus A330-300 aircraft, which seats 42 in Mabuhay Class (business) and 260 in Fiesta Class (economy), for both routes.

The Delhi inaugural will give PAL a presence in South Asia for the first time since 1994—just days after it celebrates its 70th founding anniversary on March 15 as Asia's first airline.

The addition of Delhi expands the PAL international network to 26 points in 15 countries and territories. The airline also flies to 20 points within the Philippines.

## Filipino govt, rebels confirm peace talks

By **BJOERN H. AMLAND**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**OSLO, Norway (AP)**—Negotiators from the Philippines government and communist rebels have agreed to resume peace talks after informal meetings in Norway.

The two sides signed a joint statement at the end of the five-day preparatory talks, saying they would meet again in Oslo for the actual negotiations on Feb. 15-21.

They agreed on an agenda and to work for the "expeditious release" of imprisoned rebels. Negotiators said those include Tirso Alcantara, a commander on the main island of Luzon.

Alcantara, known also as Comrade Bart, was arrested just after the two sides ended a 19-day Christmas truce earlier this month.

Peace talks were suspended in 2004 when the rebels withdrew, accusing the government of instigating the inclusion of the Communist Party and its armed wing on U.S. and European lists of terrorist organizations.

The release of Alcantara and 13 other prisoners is a key issue for the talks, rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni said, adding they should be let go before the first or the second round of the peace talks.

Three high-ranking members of the Communist Party members currently evading arrest warrants in the Philippines also should be allowed to attend the talks in Norway, Jalandoni said.

"We have made our promises to try to facilitate all of this as soon as possible, but we cannot guarantee anything," government negotiator Alexander Padilla said.

## Car thieves fall in Cavite

By **ABIGAIL KWOK**  
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—Stepping up its drive following the series of car theft-related murders in the past weeks, police on Friday arrested eight car thieves in Cavite province, the provincial police chief said.

Authorities swooped down on the members of the Onad car theft group and after a brief fire fight, subdued its leader, Ronald Santiago and seven of his cohorts, according to Senior Superintendent Danilo Maligalig.

Maligalig said joint operatives of the Highway Patrol Group, Bataan, Cavite and Pasay police also confiscated several high-powered firearms and a stolen vehicle.

In a statement, Calabarzon police director Chief Superintendent Samuel Pagdilao said police encountered the suspects in Barangay (village) Paliparan in Dasmariñas City early Friday.

Apart from its leader, the other members of the group were identified as Joselito Sarabia, Carlo Cabrera, Arnold Alipon, Philip Santos, George Cariaga, Ramir Santiago and Joseph Hilario.

Authorities recovered two caliber 38 revolvers, one 12-gauge shotgun and several alleged hijacked items.

Pagdilao said police have been tracking the activities of the group for a long time prior to their arrest.

Last week, the charred body of car dealer Venson Evangelista was found in the remote barangay of Buliran in Caba-



A Philippine National Police officer looks at the burnt remains of an SUV allegedly owned by slain car dealer Emerson Lozano Wednesday Jan. 19, 2011 at a remote village of San Simon, Dinalupihan township, Bataan province, about 150 kilometers (93 miles) northwest of Manila, Philippines.

## Philippines shocked by brutal killings, burnings

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Philippine police are investigating the gangland-style killings of two car dealers, who were separately shot in the head then burned in attacks that shocked many in this already crime-weary country.

Police Chief Superintendent Benito Estipona says the charred body of Venson Evangelista was found and identified by police on Tuesday, a few days after they recovered the burned re-

mains of another car dealer, Emerson Lozano, and his driver north of Manila.

Estipona says both of the businessmen went missing after setting out to meet prospective car buyers, adding that Lozano and Evangelista may have been killed by the same group of gunmen.

President Benigno Aquino III has assured a jittery public that police are working to identify and capture the killers.

natuan City, Nueva Ecija, after his car went missing.

Also last week, the charred bodies of Emerson Lozano, son of lawyer Oliver Lozano, and his driver, Ermane Sensil, were found in Porac, Pampanga, and La Paz, Tarlac, respectively. The KIA

Carnival SUV model 2008 (plate number QAE-333) Lozano was selling was also found burned.

On Wednesday, a first cousin of former senator and defeated vice presidential candidate Mar Roxas became the latest victim of car theft after her black

Toyota Land Cruiser was forcibly taken by two men from her driver in Makati City.

The wave of car theft and murders have revived calls from several groups for the reimposition of death penalty, but this was thumbed down by lawmakers.

## PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

### 16 inmates bolt Philippine jail using blankets

**COTABATO, Philippines (AP)**—A mayor says 16 inmates have broken free from a jail in the southern Philippines by cutting the iron bars of their cell and using blankets to lower themselves into a nearby river. Cotabato Mayor Japal Guiani Jr. says one inmate was recaptured Thursday following the midnight escape from the overcrowded jail in the city center. It holds about 300 inmates facing charges of murder, drug trafficking and weapons possession. Dozens of

jailbreaks blamed on lax security and poor prison conditions take place every year, many including terrorist suspects and communist and Muslim rebels.

### Filipino militant blamed for beheadings wounded

**ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)**—Military officials say Philippine troops have shot and wounded an Abu Sayyaf commander blamed for beheadings and kidnappings in the country's south. Army Col. Nicanor Dolan said Thursday that troops have inten-

sified the search for Nurhassan Jamiri after receiving intelligence that he was wounded in a clash Wednesday near Al-Barka town on Basilan island. He said a soldier was also killed in the clash. Jamiri has been blamed for the 2007 beheadings of 10 marines in Basilan, several kidnappings for ransom and bomb attacks in the impoverished Muslim province. Washington has blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist organization. The group remains a national security threat despite being weakened by battle casualties and surrenders.

## PERSONAL FINANCE

### Simple steps to lasting (material) wealth

By **LILIA BORLONGAN-ALVAREZ**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Wealth (or the lack thereof) is reflected not as figures on the ATM screen but is anchored on the kind of person that you are, how you act (whether prudently or on impulse) and how you remain true to your personal convictions.

In her article "10 Priceless Strategies for the Next Decade," which appeared in the 10th anniversary edition of The Oprah Magazine, Suze Orman shares these simple steps to ensuring financial security:

**1.) Be honest with yourself as regards your finances.** In local parlance, this means "magpakatotoo sa sarili" or "tanggapin ang katotohanan." A crushing credit card balance caused by your need to impress others is a costly lie, says Orman. "Living within your means is living honestly." Read: Find ways to save even a small amount a week or each month and in 25 years, it will grow to an amount that will surprise even the worst spendthrift. And if we may put in our two cents' worth: Keeping up with the Joneses will get you nowhere.

**2.) Stop settling for what the world offers.** "You need to be your own best advocate. If there's no raise this year because of the economy, meet with your boss to determine grounds for a raise next year. If you're self-employed and haven't increased your rates in years, why are you putting yourself on sale? I say it's fear that's keeping you from having more in your life!" Orman says.

**3.) Hope for the best, plan for the worst.** It's true: Unexpected events in one's life such as layoffs are destabilizing. Orman says you make things worse when you see these events as major setbacks, instead of starting points for you to reimagine and reclaim your life. You can reduce the pain by building an emergency fund, that is, money set aside in case of sickness or tragedy (which is as inevitable as death and taxes).

**4.) Be generous.** Orman tells of the reality that people in financial trouble hold tightly to what they have. Although it's not really good motivation but perhaps a good place to start, she writes: "To put yourself in a position to receive more in life, you must first open your hands—and your heart—by giving to others today."

**5.) Save for indulgences.** Building lasting wealth doesn't have to be an extremely rigid, lifelong undertaking. "Assuming you're on track with your retirement savings, have no credit card debt, and have an emergency savings fund, you shouldn't deny yourself some fun (such as throwing a birthday party for friends and loved ones) so long as you've saved up for it," Orman advises.

**6.) Prepare your must-have documents.** Make ready your must-have "forever" documents you've sworn for years you'd prepare such as a will, for instance, a healthcare power of attorney and the like.

**7.) Leave something people will remember you by.** Orman says this is about the deathbed test. "Will loved ones describe you in terms of what you bought for yourself, or will they talk about who you were and how fiercely you loved? Make that question your guidepost, and life will be richer than you can imagine," she says.



# Maharlika – PinoyStyle



Simple, intimate, hush-hush nuptials for Oyo and Kristine.

## Magic-hour wedding in sneakers

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The bride and groom wore sneakers.

Although Oyo Sotto and Kristine Hermosa looked every inch the traditional celebrity newlyweds, a closer inspection would reveal otherwise.

"They were both wearing rubber shoes, except that Kristine's pair had glitters on them," recalled Malou Fagar, Sotto's manager and a ninang (one of the principal sponsors) to the couple.

### 'Simple, funny'

It was "a simple, funny" ceremony, Fagar recalled, but ultra hush-hush, as was the couple's plan.

It was held at dusk on Wednesday (the groom's birthday) at the beach resort Balai Isabel in Talisay, Batangas. The

couple invited only close family and friends, related ABS-CBN president Charo Santos who was also a ninang.

"Very intimate," Santos described the event. "They said their vows at the 'magic hour.' It was beautiful."

Santos described Hermosa as "the picture of a very happy and lovely bride," Sotto as "gushing with excitement mixed with awe."

It was Sotto's first marriage, while it was Hermosa's second (the first was with actor Diether Ocampo).

The bride wore a white gown (by Edwin Tan), while the groom donned an all-white Nehru jacket (also by Tan), said Fagar.

At the party, Hermosa changed to a dress by Francis Libiran.

Although it was a laid-back affair, Sotto was said to have

made the pastor, Robert Gonzales, "jittery."

"The pastor thought Oyo was raring to kiss Kristine. The pastor wanted to stop Oyo. That was funny," said Fagar.

But the most memorable moment came when the groom's parents, TV host/actor Vic Sotto and actress Dina Bonnevie, delivered their heartfelt messages to the couple, said Fagar.

"Vic joked that he couldn't really give marital advice to the couple, as his ex-wife Dina could readily attest to," Fagar said.

She related that there was not a dry tear at the reception when a weeping Bonnevie said: "Oyo would always defend me every time someone tried to hurt me. I am sure that Oyo would be just as loving to and protective of Kristine."

Fagar said that Sotto's older

sister Danica teased her: "Like mom, you've also lost your baby. He now has his own world, his own life with Kristine."

The newlyweds will not be quitting show biz anytime soon, Fagar said.

"Oyo still has his show 'Midnight DJ' on TV5 and Kristine is still with ABS-CBN."

The couple's wedding was witnessed by personalities from the three top networks ABS-CBN, GMA 7 and TV5.

"There were only 200 guests or so. Everyone cooperated. They wanted to grant the couple's wish for the wedding to remain private," said Fagar.

Other principal sponsors were Sen. Tito Sotto, Dr. Isabel Nazal, Johnny Manahan, Clarita Buencamino, Edmundo Jose Buencamino, Lucy Garcia and Marcelino Sotto Jr.

## Venus' 'major, major' leap

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

What the Kapamilya network described as a "major, major" coup didn't come as a huge surprise: Reigning Binibining Pilipinas-Universe Maria Venus Raj and the pageant itself, Binibining Pilipinas, have inked a deal with ABS-CBN last Thursday.

The beauty contest was most recently aired on GMA 7 before moving to channel 2.

(ABS-CBN will air Binibining Pilipinas in April and the Miss Universe pageant, which will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in August.)

Stella Marquez-Araneta, chair of the Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc., said the move to ABS-CBN was consistent with her organization's plan to go global: "We want to continue growing. This new partnership will help us reach that goal."

Raj, who placed fourth in the Miss Universe pageant, has appeared in Kapamilya projects like "Showtime," Bayaning Pilipino Awards, and the channel's Christmas Special.

There are reports that Raj will join the morning show "Umagang Kay Ganda" (UKG) soon. A cum laude Journalism graduate from Bicol University, does she see herself doing news reports on "TV Patrol" or co-hosting a morning magazine show like UKG?

### 'Looking forward'

"Why not? That's my field. I had a little training and my background will serve as my advantage. If it's true, I am looking forward to it," she told Inquirer Entertainment. How about covering the Miss Universe contest in Brazil?

"I'm sure there will be a reporter assigned to that event, but I will be willing and ready, if ever," she said.

Raj explained that like any new-

comer, she will not be too choosy with her future assignments and will welcome any offer.

She said that she is also not finicky about her possible leading men.

She admitted that Piolo Pascual and Coco Martin are her "crushes."

Among Hollywood stars, her all-time favorite is another vertically-challenged star, Tom Cruise.

"I'll wear flat shoes so that there won't be any problem," she quipped. At 5'9", she is considerably taller than most Kapamilya actors.

She is willing to enroll in acting workshops, and to don swimsuits or engage in kissing scenes, "for as long as these are within my limits and will not make me look bad," she pointed out.

She didn't deny reports that there had been offers from other stations—notably, from GMA 7 and TV5.

But what spelled the difference for ABS-CBN?

She said it was her mom Ester who convinced her to sign up with the Kapamilya network: "My mom wanted me to join ABS-CBN so that I'd be seen more widely in the provinces." Raj's family is from Bago, Camarines Sur.

She recalled that she and her mom used to watch the network's prime time soap operas together. "We followed the shows of Angel Locsin like 'Lobo' and 'Immortal.' Also, 'Mara Clara.'"

Lastly, she told the Inquirer that she has gotten used to the "major, major" tag—a reference to her controversial answer in the Miss Universe pageant.

"I will not deny that I used to be uncomfortable with it. But now that even street kids know the phrase and people associate it with me... I don't mind hearing it and saying it just as often. It has become my trademark."

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—The night's most daring stunt turned out to be Sharon Cuneta's on-stage mishap—outshining even daughter KC Concepcion's air dance with Sam Milby, and Ai Ai de las Alas' upside-down, hamster-wheel acrobatics.

Known as the country's Megastar, Cuneta promised to celebrate her 45th birthday with a bang. Instead a loud thud echoed in the middle of her birthday concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Tuesday night. (The show will be aired on ABS-CBN on Jan. 23.)

In the middle of a rock 'n' roll number with Ramon Ja-

cinto and Billy Crawford, she made a wrong move and landed on the floor.

Billy was stunned, but swiftly helped Cuneta on her feet. RJ, trouper that he is, remained unruffled and continued strumming his guitar.

Cuneta later joked and asked the Araneta crowd: "Kaya n'yo yon? Ako lang makakagawa no'n. (Can you top that? Only I can do that.)"

Turned out, it was no laughing matter.

She didn't complain throughout the three-hour show, but later felt neck and back pains while in her dressing room and had to be rushed to the hospital, recounted makeup artist Fanny Serrano.

## DOLLYWOOD

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Breakups are always tricky. It's a "she said, he said" thing. These days, a split-up can also turn into a "she tweeted, he tweeted" affair.

Just like the case of actress Candy Pangilinan and TV/film director GB Sampedro. Although GB doesn't have a Twitter account, Candy has one. Her tweets after their breakup ran the whole gamut of emotions, which is understandable for any woman in the process of letting go.

As her manager Angeli Valenciano puts it, Candy is a very loving woman. Ma-emo lang talaga. Candy has apologized for her tweets insinuating that GB fooled her.

What's GB's sentiments about the issue? "As much as possible, I don't wanna comment para 'di na lumaki pa ang gulo," he explained. "But since it's all over the news, I

## Candy regrets tweeting about breakup

guess I ought to clarify matters. Hopefully, this will put the issue to rest. I want to set the record straight na there's no third party involved in our breakup. I'd rather keep the reasons between Candy and me. It was a compilation of little irritants that we couldn't resolve anymore. And we were not scheduled to get married."

Any message for Candy? "Sana tumahimik na para we can both move on in peace. I wish her well. Nagulat talaga ako sa mga tweets niya though nai-kwento lang sa akin kasi I'm not on Twitter. Gusto ko sanang isipin na 'di ako ang pinapatamaan niya sa mga tweets niya but it's kinda obvious. Baka she was not thinking straight when she posted those tweets. But naman she deleted them na."

Some people are pinpointing Ai Ai de las Alas as the new girl in his life after they were seen at Zirkoh recently.

"Ai and I are close because we are both Backroom talents," he said. "And I used to direct

her show. Ang hirap makita lang ako na may kasamang girl, people think GF ko na. I'm still waiting for my princess."

### Sister act

I immensely enjoyed my one-on-one interview with my beloved "sister," Princess Punzalan-Field, on TV5's "Paparazzi." Has she watched the show of her ex, Willie Revillame?

"Not yet because I'm busy shooting," she said. "They have to rush my scenes because I'm flying back to the United States first week of February to continue my nursing course. But I heard 'Willing Willie' is doing well. I'm sincerely happy for him because all his dreams have been fulfilled. Beyond his expectations pa. I just pray that he finds the right girl."

What's her unsolicited advice to Shalani Soledad who's Willie's current squeeze? "It's hard to give advice because I don't know the real score between them and I haven't met Shalani. Siguro

a number choreographed by Georcelle Dapata.

Hanging on red cloth, KC dangled in the air, while Sam caught her with his bare back.

Sam later admitted that KC's part was "harder than mine."

De las Alas initially claimed that she couldn't make it to Araneta, but surprised Cuneta with a bodacious dance number in what looked like a giant hamster wheel.

Wearing what she described as a glittery "mallong" outfit, De las Alas ended the routine by hanging upside down from the "wheel of misfortune" (which tore a hole on her stockings).

Cuneta said she was touched by De las Alas' effort.

as a general advice lang dapat maging very patient ang kahit sinong girl na ma-i-involve kay Willie. Nung naging kami I was only 18. What I used to do pag mainit ang ulo niya, hinahayaan ko muna lumamig. Di dapat sabayan."

What's her fondest memory of Willie? "When my mom died, takot na takot siya mul-tuhin ni Mommy so kahit sa banyo nagpapapasama siya sa akin (laughs)."

What's the best advice of her mom (Helen Vela) that she follows to this day? "She told me na bilog ang mundo. You'll never know na ang taong down ngayon eh bukas nasa taas na, so we should treat people equally."

### Juicy news

Bumping into Toni Gonzaga at ABS-CBN, Kris Aquino hollered, "Juicy!" It could be Tetay's way of saying that she watches the talk show co-hosted by Toni's sis, Alex. In that show, Kris happens to be a fave topic, whether in a good or bad way.



# Maharlika – Opinyon

## A migrant-sending country's search for a long-term Filipino vision

By JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO

INSTITUTE FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

What does the Philippines has to do with a southern Caribbean country named Trinidad and Tobago?

This former Spanish and British colony of 1.338 million people not only hosts an estimated 1,200 Filipinos (including 1,000 overseas workers), but did a bold attempt at national development that a Southeast Asian archipelago can learn from.

At the onset of its own oil boom come the new millennium, and during the time of the country's former head of government, Prime Minister Patrick Manning, Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Planning and Development started in 2002 the groundwork to formulate a strategic plan called Vision 2020. By the year 2020, government officials hope Trinidad and Tobago "will be a united, resilient, productive, innovative and prosperous nation with a disciplined, caring, fun-loving society, comprising health, happy and well-educated people and built on the enduring attributes of self-reliance, respect, equity, and integrity."

The work of the planning committee to formulate Vision 2020 ended in 2005, and the country's parliament approved Vision 2020's draft national strategic plan in 2006. This national strategic plan then formulated its first operational plan that covered the years 2007 to 2010. Even a unit within T&T's Ministry of Planning and Development was created to monitor the operational plan.

Vision 2020, says an informative video ([www.vision2020.info.tt/video/vision2020\\_intro.htm](http://www.vision2020.info.tt/video/vision2020_intro.htm)), is anchored on five pillars: enabling competitive business, developing innovative people, nurturing a caring society, investing in sound infrastructure and the environment, and promoting effective government.

This republic has a two-party political system and a bicameral parliamentary system. Head of state is a President, currently George Maxwell Richards; a Prime Minister, currently Kamla Persad-Bissessar, heads the government.

Of course, political dynamics affected the country. Former Prime Minister Manning (of the People's National Movement or PNM party) dissolved parliament in April 2010 and called for national elections, which Bissessar's party, the People's Partnership, won most seats.

Still, the upper-income Caribbean country's Vision 2020 goes on.

While Vision 2020 outlined specific strategies, the migration phenomenon is integrated in it, considering that there are some 300,000-plus overseas Trinidadians and there are about 40,000 foreigners working and residing in T&T.

Overseas migration is under the population segment of Vision 2020, and two of the six population-related goals of Vision 2020 are

where overseas migration operates: developing a reliable population database (that is hopefully 95 percent accurate), and minimize the negative impacts of migration on Trinidadian society.

Under the goal of developing a reliable population database, Michele Reis of The University of the West Indies observes Vision 2020 hoped to precisely determine how migration impacts on education, the work force, and the country's elderly population. Meanwhile, Vision 2020 hoped to reduce the emigration of skilled Trinidadian labor, facilitate the integration of returning migrants, and facilitate the full integration of documented and non-documented migrants in T&T.

Such bold integration of migration in T&T's Vision 2020 is so even if the country is not a major recipient of remittances (around US\$ 87 million reached T&T in 2007, with that amount coming from more than half of overseas Trinidadians who have college degrees). T&T, Reis also notes, is a destination country of trafficked and smuggled persons, asylum-seekers and refugees.

Compare Trinidad and Tobago to the fourth largest remittance economy, the Philippines: a country with an elaborate migration management system that received over-US\$17 billion in 2009, and where an estimated 8.5 million overseas Filipinos, scattered in 220 countries and territories, come from.

As the government of popularly-elected President Benigno Simeon Aquino III is about to finish producing the 2010-2016 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP), something seems missing: Where does the Philippines want to go, regardless of who is this country's president?

Six years, thus Aquino's term, are not enough for the Philippines to generate some 13-15 million quality jobs to reduce joblessness visibly, if estimates by economists Fernando Aldaba and Reuel Hermoso are to be believed. Poverty levels remained the same (26 million living in poverty), says initial results of the 2009 Family Income and Expenditures Survey. It may take a herculean effort to bring back agriculture's old glory, or even revitalize the stagnant industry or manufacturing sector.

A government agency, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, just revised its vision and mission in the hope that migration and devel-

opment, by 2020, has been mainstreamed in the bureaucracy. In the short term, thinktanks like the Scalabrini Migration Center hope a national migration and development plan is formulated by June 2011.

But where the Filipino boat intends to sail remains a question. One remembers a vision by former President Fidel Ramos (1992-1998) during his term: "Philippines 2000" where, by the turn of the new millennium, the country would have become a Tiger economy.

While many factors did not achieve such a vision, and the Philippines continues to be a basket case in Asia, at least there was a vision to direct an entire nation's efforts.

The National Economic and Development Authority may want to think about drafting a long-term strategic plan similar to T&T's Vision 2020, one that goes beyond a current president's regime. After launching the new MTPDP by early 2011, NEDA can convene the country's best minds to, without partisanship, help draft such a development vision for the long haul—and have President Aquino endorse this process.

And overseas migration's place in such a long-term Philippine vision? It is time to optimize a "Philippine diasporic dividend"—the net of net benefit from overseas migration—that supplements a long-term, not just a short-term, vision of Philippine development.

Since the overseas exodus has impacted many aspects of Filipino socio-economic and cultural life, it is time to develop a *migration-and-development system* that sees the country and her institutions address systemically the various impacts of migration on development. The Philippines has yet to have a system to address the economic and social impacts of migration—or even a set of goals to manage these impacts and optimize migration's gains.

Integrating such a migration-and-development system into a long-term Philippine vision will be good first step to see the progress of this migrant-sending country beyond merely sending people abroad and receiving dollars.

But if the boat just sails and doesn't know where to go, there goes the thrill of looking ahead to a brighter Filipino future.

Comments to the Institute for Migration and Development Issues may be sent to [ofw\\_philanthropy@yahoo.com](mailto:ofw_philanthropy@yahoo.com).

### EDITORIAL

## Bad rice

The disclosures weren't a complete surprise. Since his first State of the Nation Address, President Benigno Aquino III has invested presidential capital in the issue of "bad rice"—the allegations about corruption and criminal inefficiencies involving rice imports and swirling about the National Food Authority. The other day he was at it again, pressing the case for a thorough reform of the NFA, and revealing that "only one group or one person" appears to have unduly benefited from anomalous rice importations in the first half—the election-year half—of last year.

We did not like one thing about the speech, though: He wasn't specific enough. We don't mean he wasn't specific about the identity of the one group or one person involved in the over-priced purchase of unnecessary rice imports. We can appreciate the President's caution, and his expressed need to "ensure the facts before we accuse anybody." But the President could have been more specific about the next steps, about what lies ahead, above all about when the public should expect his administration to begin naming names. A task without a deadline is a mere daydream, or a campaign promise.

President Aquino could also have been more specific about the reforms that need to get done. It isn't enough to simply clean up the NFA. What if the government were to exit from the rice import business altogether? If private-sector companies of proven competence and high accountability could ensure the availability of rice, can't the government rechannel its resources to greatly increase the Filipino farmer's productivity?

We realize the task ahead is tricky: rice is pre-eminently a political commodity. All the more reason, then, for the Aquino administration to get specific. Of course, we want to know who the one group or one person is. But we also need to know what the many reform proposals are.

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## Quiroga on late 16th-century Luzon

Fray Gabriel Quiroga de San Antonio was an obscure Dominican who served for a few years in the Philippines and wrote "A brief and truthful relation of the events in the Kingdom of Cambodia" which was published in Valladolid in 1604. In his book is a short section on Luzon that he described as the most visited of the islands in the Philippines, "very crowded, very rich, mainly because of the trade it has with China and Japan." If he were not so focused on Cambodia, Father Gabriel would have left us with a valuable primary source on the Philippines in the late 16th century. He wrote:

"Luzon means 'instrument which is used to grind rice' [i.e. lusong] and also 'orchard' or 'garden,' and that is how that island can be named, and either meaning is appropriate, because it produces a lot of rice and looks like an orchard or garden. It is still densely populated everywhere and its natives, although from various races with distinct languages and clothes, are small-sized, brown-skinned and understand the Tagalog language which is the most widespread. They write with special letters and characters [i.e. Baybayin], from the top to the bottom of a piece of paper like the Chinese. They are all pagans and have many gods they call anitos. Before their conversion, they had more than one king and lived as if in a behetria [a place where equality prevails]. Each province had its own chief. Almost the whole island is Christian; those who have not been baptized are few and far between and that is due to the lack of ministers. They usually say they are as good as the Castilas and that those only brought three things superior to theirs: the law, not as the Castilas keep it but as they preach it, the women and the wine. If they are asked to forsake wine, women and the law, they say they will keep wine at the cost of their belongings, they will make it a point of honor to protect their wives, and they will stake their reputations and life to defend the Christian law.

"There are many rivers on that island, all full of fish; the lagoon called Pasi [i.e. Pasig] is 70 leagues wide, 15, 10, 6 and at least one fathom deep. That lagoon and all the rivers in the island are navigable and covered with barangays, virreyes, proes and bancas, which is what the natives call the small crafts with oars that the Mexican name canoas. They have many fruits; the best are guavas, bananas, lamboyes, piles, paos (which the Portuguese call mangoes), kakis, chiles, tanpetes, a few pineapples and many kinds of sugarcane, some ginger, tamarind, mustard with which the locals supply their market that they call tiangez or magabalija. That island has many coconut trees and a tree called nipa, from which a very



### Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

tasty and healthy wine, which tastes like firewater from Castile, is extracted.

"Among those fruits and herbs grows the herb called chamysa, which reminds of the tree of good and evil in the earthly paradise because it gives death and life at the same time: its roots facing the west are pervasive poisons and those facing the east are their antidotes, which are actually very delicate. A bago [new] soldier, which is what newly arrived people are called and which is the equivalent to chapeton in Peru, cachopin in Mexico and reynol in the East Indies, ate some of that herb and was sorely afflicted. I went to give him confession and it was a surprising thing to see that the roots, in an

adverse manner, obviously turned out to be effective—the antidote got the upper hand and eventually the soldier recovered.

"On that island there is a lot of venison, a lot of chickens of which the best have black flesh and bones. There are goats and buffalos, which are commonly called carabaos, and many crowded cattle pens.

"There are numerous kinds of very fine timber, which is used to build very solid and beautiful houses.

"The gold mine in Aricey is very rich and the Igotot mountain range that spreads across the whole island is, moreover, extremely rich in gold and other metals. It is very high and the natives are most barbaric; they live without any other craft but one that enables them to make a profit from those mines. The Igotots go down to certain edges of the forest; the Pampanga natives, the Ilocos and the Pangasinans go up there and sell fabrics, chickens, pigs and cows with which they buy the Igotot's gold.

"A [Dominican] friar, who wanted to test the intelligence of those Gentiles, climbed up the mountain and began to catechize one of them. After a lengthy harangue, the Igotot Indian promised to believe and to confess to the only true God, that of the Castilas that the friar had preached to him about, if that God helped him extract more gold than his companions when he was with them. The occasion and the time seemed very propitious to the friar to dispose that nation to the Gospel. He taught the Igotot the 'Credo' and the 'Pater [Noster]' and told him to recite those prayers when he went to the mines. The Igotot did so; and God gave him so much gold that he extracted as much as he wanted for himself and his parents. And it was so funny to see the fear with which the Igotot begged the religious not to teach anybody else those prayers, wishing to keep for himself the benefit there was in knowing them. He became Christian and was the instantaneous cause of the other's conversion."

I wish Father Gabriel had written a bit more.



# Maharlika-Samu't Sari



## NEW LAW

Rota officials led by Sen. Jovita Taimañao (Ind.-Rota) act as witnesses as acting governor Eloy S. Inos signs into local law Thursday a local measure appropriating \$48,000 to Rota patients, scholars, agriculture, employees' retroactive pay, and other local programs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## AWARENESS WALK

Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program coordinator Joanne Ogo, right, gestures as she explains the importance of the HPV vaccine for young teenage girls to lower their risk for cervical cancer just before the start of the Cervical Cancer Awareness Walk on Jan. 19.

CLARISSA DAVID



## ANNUAL FESTIVAL

▲ In this file photo, judges make their marks for the kids' sand castle building contest during the 2010 Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in the Northern Mariana Islands. The annual signature of the Marianas Visitors Authority returns this year on Feb. 19-20, 2011, at Tachogna Beach on Tinian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## BONDING TIME

◀ Staff of Serenity Salon & Spa and Dollar Days bond with their families as they visit Managaha for the first time on Jan. 17.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## SENATE HEARING

Sen. Ralph Torres congratulates former judge Juan T. Lizama after the hearing Wednesday morning on Lizama's appointment to the NMC Board of Regents on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings to Aqua Resort Club restaurant manager Ramon S. Awit! Greetings from your family and friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday greetings to Jeany Tengco Puri, who celebrated her birthday on Jan. 14, 2011, at her grandma's residence in As Lito, Saipan. Inset shows the birthday celebrant.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday wishes to a loving, caring and all around mom, Vicky Guerero. We love you and hope that you enjoy your day. With love, from Dad, AngelRay, Joseph Jr., the girls and grandkids.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Glenn Stuart Santos Calvo Jr., who is celebrating his 11th birthday! Wishing you many more years of love, peace, and happiness! Greetings come from your Calvo family.



# Youngstyle

## What happens when mom unplugs teens for 6 months?



This undated photo courtesy of Frances Andrijich shows Susan Maushart, second from left, with her children, from left to right, Anni, Sussy and Bill (with cat Hazel) as they play a board game together at the family home in Perth, Australia, before the family moved to the U.S. When Susan Maushart took away the Internet, TV, iPods, cell phones and video games for six months, she and her kids rediscovered small pleasures—like board games, books, lazy Sundays, old photos, family meals and listening to music together.

By BETH J. HARPAZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Susan Maushart lived out every parent's fantasy: She unplugged her teenagers.

For six months, she took away the Internet, TV, iPods, cell phones and video games. The eerie glow of screens stopped lighting up the family room. Electronic devices no longer chirped through the night like "evil crickets." And she stopped carrying her iPhone into the bathroom.

The result of what she grandly calls "The Experiment" was more OMG than LOL—and nothing less than an immersion in RL (real life).

As Maushart explains in a book released in the U.S. this week called "The Winter of Our Disconnect" (Penguin, \$16.95), she and her kids rediscovered small pleasures—like board games, books, lazy Sundays, old photos, family meals and listening to music together instead of everyone plugging into their own iPods.

Her son Bill, a videogame and TV addict, filled his newfound spare time playing saxophone. "He swapped

Grand Theft Auto for the Charlie Parker songbook," Maushart wrote. Bill says The Experiment was merely a "trigger" and he would have found his way back to music eventually. Either way, he got so serious playing sax that when the gadget ban ended, he sold his game console and is now studying music in college.

Maushart's eldest, Anni, was less wired and more bookish than the others, so her transition in and out of The Experiment was the least dramatic. Her friends thought the ban was "cool." If she needed computers for schoolwork, she went to the library. Even now, she swears off Facebook from time to time, just for the heck of it.

Maushart's youngest daughter, Sussy, had the hardest time going off the grid. Maushart had decided to allow use of the Internet, TV and other electronics outside the home, and Sussy immediately took that option, taking her laptop and moving in with her dad—Maushart's ex-husband—for six weeks. Even after she returned to Maushart's home, she spent hours on a landline phone as a substitute for texts and Facebook.

But the electronic deprivation had

an impact anyway: Sussy's grades improved substantially. Maushart wrote that her kids "awoke slowly from the state of cognitius interruptus that had characterized many of their waking hours to become more focused logical thinkers."

Maushart decided to unplug the family because the kids—ages 14, 15 and 18 when she started The Experiment—didn't just "use media," as she put it. They "inhabited" media. "They don't remember a time before e-mail, or instant messaging, or Google," she wrote.

Like so many teens, they couldn't do their homework without simultaneously listening to music, updating Facebook and trading instant messages. If they were amused, instead of laughing, they actually said "LOL" aloud. Her girls had become mere "accessories of their own social-networking profile, as if real life were simply a dress rehearsal (or more accurately, a photo op) for the next status update."

Maushart admits to being as addicted as the kids. A native New Yorker, she was living in Perth, Australia, near her ex-husband, while medicating her

homesickness with podcasts from National Public Radio and The New York Times online. Her biggest challenge during The Experiment was "relinquishing the ostrichlike delusion that burying my head in information and entertainment from home was just as good as actually being there."

Maushart began The Experiment with a drastic measure: She turned off the electricity completely for a few weeks—candles instead of electric lights, no hot showers, food stored in a cooler of ice. When blackout boot camp ended, Maushart hoped the "electricity is awesome!" reaction would soften the kids' transition to life without Google and cell phones.

It was a strategy that would have made Maushart's muse, Henry David Thoreau, proud. She is a lifelong devotee of Thoreau's classic book "Walden," which chronicled Thoreau's sojourn in solitude and self-sufficiency in a small cabin on a pond in the mid-1800s. "Simplify, simplify!" Thoreau admonished himself and his readers, a sentiment Maushart echoes throughout the book.

As a result of The Experiment, Maushart made a major change in her own life. In December, she moved from Australia to Long Island in New York, with Sussy. Of course, the move merely perpetuated Maushart's need to live in two places at once: She kept her job as a columnist for an Australian newspaper and is "living on Skype" because her older children stayed Down Under to attend university. Ironically, the Internet eased the transition to America for Sussy, who used Facebook to befriend kids in her new high school before arriving.

Another change for Maushart: She's no longer reluctant to impose blackouts on Sussy's screentime. "Instead of angsty, 'Don't you think you're spending too much time on the computer? Don't you think you should do something else like reading?' I now just take the computer away when I think she's had enough," Maushart said in a phone interview. "And now that she's been on the other side and remembers what it's like, it's less of an issue."

## Feds checking post-vaccine seizures in young kids

By MIKE STOBBE  
AP MEDICAL WRITER

**ATLANTA (AP)**—Government officials are investigating an apparent increase in fever-related seizures in young children after they got a flu shot.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Thursday said there have been 36 confirmed reports of seizures this flu season in children ages 6 months through 2 years. The seizures occurred within one day after they were vaccinated with Fluzone, the only flu shot recommended in the United States for infants and very young children. Ten of the children were hospitalized, but all recovered.

The FDA said it is investigating to see if there is any connection between the vaccine and the seizures, or if something else caused the convulsions. The agency said recommendations for using the vaccine have not changed, nor has there been any change in flu vaccine guidance.

In the U.S., vaccination is recommended for everyone except infants under 6 months.

The vaccine's manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur, issued a statement emphasizing that no clear link has been established between the flu shot and the seizures and that the cases may be coincidental.

### ONLINE:

FDA notice:  
<http://tinyurl.com/FDAnotice>

Thursday's announcement comes at a time when the FDA has been working on disclosing more information about potential safety problems with drugs and devices after they've been approved.

The government uses a national reporting system to monitor possible side effects following vaccination. Doctors, nurses, parents and vaccine manufacturers all can file reports.

"It's meant to cast a wide net" to look for problems, but is only regarded as preliminary information that must be checked out, said Shelly Burgess, an FDA spokeswoman.

FDA officials said they've been paying special attention to seizure reports because of an unexplained higher rate of fevers and seizures in young children in Australia and New Zealand who got a specific flu vaccine earlier this year.

In August, a U.S. vaccines advisory panel said doctors should avoid using that vaccine, made by CSL Biotherapies, in children ages 6 months through 8 years.

It's possible the Australia cases sparked increased reports this fall, said Dr. Andrea Sutherland, an official in the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

The fever-related seizures—called febrile seizures—are convulsions brought on by a fever in infants or small children. A child often loses consciousness and shakes. Most seizures last a minute or two, and often children quickly recover.

Such seizures may occur with any common childhood illnesses that may cause fever, such as ear infections, colds, influenza and other viral infections.

## Dad: Arizona girl's corneas saved vision of 2 kids

By AMANDA LEE MYERS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**TUCSON, Ariz.** (AP)—Donated corneas from the young girl killed in the Arizona mass shooting have saved the eyesight of two children, the girl's father told The Associated Press on Monday.

John Green said the Donor Network of Arizona told him and his wife about the successful transplants.

He said he doesn't know whether any of 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green's other organs have gone to any other children, but he's under the impression that her wounds rendered her internal organs unusable.

Christina was the youngest victim of the shooting that left a total of six dead and 13 others wounded—including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords—on Jan. 8. Green said he and his wife Roxanna didn't hesitate to allow doctors to use Christina's organs.



In this file photo provided by the Green family, Christina Green is shown. Green, 9, was killed at a political event with Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, Ariz. on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011.

"The fact that her organs were able to help people, that was an amazing thing to me," he said. "It's just another thing that this little girl has given the world."

The Donor Network of Arizona declined to comment on any donation, citing confidentiality.

The third-grader had just been elected to the student council and had been interested in politics from a young age, which is why she went to see Giffords.

Green said knowing that other children have been helped by Christina has been a comfort during a difficult time for his family.

"We really felt a lot of emotion about that," he said. "That was something that really made us feel gifted, still. We just want to make sure that her little time here in the world was well-spent."

He said his daughter constantly made him proud, whether it was as a baseball player on an all-boys team or

as someone who defended other students against bullies on the bus.

"If there was something to be said, she would say it," he said. "I liked the fact that she would help the kids that were being bullied, that she'd step up on the bus and say, 'Hey you can sit with me.'"

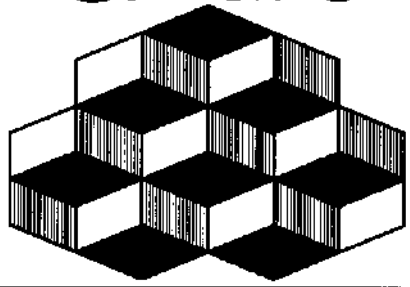
Christina's grandfather, Dallas Green, managed the 1980 world champion Philadelphia Phillies.

John Green, a scout for the Los Angeles Dodgers, said the family found strength in seeing the largest flag recovered from Ground Zero after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center displayed at Christina's funeral on Thursday. Christina was born Sept. 11, 2001, and was featured in a book about babies born on that day.

"Looking at that 9/11 flag at the service, we knew God was with us that day, and that Christina is in a good place," he said.



## OPTICALS



**AN EYE TEST!** Look at the above drawing and count the number of cubes. Are there six, or seven?

Answer: Look at it long enough and you'll see both six and seven.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



### A BOVINE BAFFLER!

Try to solve these five Ladder Puzzles before Bossy finishes her evening meal. You are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word, so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed BARN to DOOR in four moves. See if you can change the following words in four moves each:

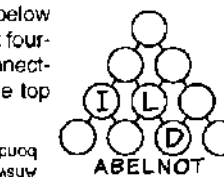
1. COOK to WARE
2. HAND to SOME
3. LAME to DUCK
4. MENU to FOOD
5. PARE to DOWN

Answers: 1. COOK, COOK, WORK, WORE, WARE  
2. HAND, LACE, LACK, LUCK, SOME  
3. LAME, LACE, LACK, LUCK, DUCK  
4. MENU, MEND, FEND, FOND, FOOD  
5. PARE, DARE, DARN, DAWN, DOWN

### FIND THE HIDDEN CITY

in this man's sentence.

Answer: The city is Toronto (TOR ON TO...)



**CHAIN REACTION!** Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Ball, bail, bald, boll, bold, bond, bone.

# Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American astronomer, astrophysicist and author Carl Sagan who made the following sage observation: "The fact that some geniuses were laughed at does not imply that all who are laughed at are geniuses. They laughed at Columbus, they laughed at Fulton, they laughed at the Wright brothers. But they also laughed at Bozo the Clown."

■ If you're like the average American woman, you will eat 4 to 6 pounds of lipstick during your lifetime.

■ You probably won't be surprised to learn that Alaska is the most northern and western state in the Union, but would you believe that it's also the easternmost state? Yep. Because the state crosses over into the Eastern Hemisphere, it's technically farther east than Maine.

■ In Alabama, lawmakers once thought it necessary to pass a law forbidding the operation of a vehicle while wearing a blindfold.

■ Traffic is so bad in Tokyo that for most trips shorter than 50 minutes, it's faster to ride a bicycle than it is to drive a car.

■ You're almost certainly familiar with the grouping of stars known in the U.S. as the Big Dipper, made up of the seven brightest stars in the constellation Ursa Major. You might not know, though, that other cultures call it by different names. In India, for example, the stars are known as the Seven Sages, and Mongolians call them the Seven Gods. Many in Northern England see a Butcher's Cleaver rather than a dipper. Scandinavians think it looks like King Charles' Wagon, those in Finland call it the Salmon Net, and the Dutch have named it the Saucepan.

■ A shrimp's heart is located in its head.

Thought for the Day: "If history repeats itself, and the unexpected always happens, how incapable must Man be of learning from experience."—George Bernard Shaw

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## MAGIC MAZE • — CAN

J Y U R O K H D A X U Q N K H  
E B Y V S P M J H E Y B Y V T  
Q O L I Y G M D B E Y W T R P  
M K G I F R D U S B E Y W L U  
S Q W A T E R I N G O F M O K  
I F D B R E H E Z I X W F S U  
S Q O N A B Y T J L M J H O F  
D C A Y S W A V K T S U Q R C  
P N L K H I R G H C N F L E E  
C B Z Y P O P W E N I D R A S  
V U S R Q P S N M L T K L I M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Aerosol	Coffee	Pop	Trash
Aluminum	Garbage	Sardine	Watering
Ash	Kick the	Spray	Yes I
Beer	Milk	Tin	

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

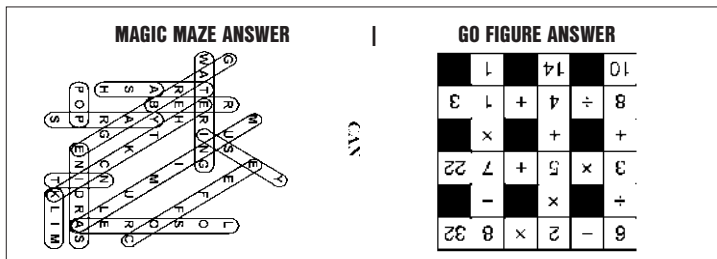
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

**DIFFICULTY: ★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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## Bad breath

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** My dog has such terrible bad breath. How can I improve this?—Beth in Rhode Island

**DEAR BETH:** Take your dog to the veterinarian to be checked out, especially if the bad breath just started or just got worse in recent days or weeks. Sometimes bad breath is just a hygiene issue, but it also can signal an underlying illness that might not have any other symptoms.

If your dog is diagnosed with an illness, follow your vet's instructions on care. Give it prescribed medication if needed and feed any diet that's recommended.

Provided your dog checks out health-wise, your vet may recommend that it get a professional cleaning to remove plaque and improve overall dental health. In between cleanings, you should brush your dog's teeth regularly using a brush and toothpaste specifically designed for dogs. You can purchase these from the vet or at any pet supply store.

Diet also may play a role in your dog's breath. Try different types of dog food or add variety to its diet with fresh foods and homemade treats a few times a week. Keep in mind that dogs can't eat all the same foods that we humans



do—like chocolate and onions, which are poison to them—so look for dog recipe books at your local bookstore or online for pet-safe ingredients.

Finally, chewing is important to a dog's oral health. Make sure that plenty of chew toys are available, which strengthen the jaw and teeth and also, in some cases, help to keep teeth clean.

Send your pet questions and tips to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com), or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at [www.pawscorner.com](http://www.pawscorner.com).

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## Serving seniors with a smile

**"L**ove and Scandal are the best sweeteners of tea," according to 18th-century playwright Henry Fielding in "Love in Several Masques," but he might have added "Smiles and Friendship" if he had joined the 20 senior residents who gathered recently for a traditional English afternoon tea at Woodbury Villa, a senior-living community.

Dressed in their finest and sitting around elegantly set tables, the residents in their 80s and 90s were served tea and sweets by 15-year-old Alexis, an active volunteer who comes by frequently to help out. "I like to get involved with parties, but I also like to do everyday

one-on-one activities because I learn so much from them," she says. "Each person has interesting and funny stories to tell as I paint their fingernails, do craft projects, play checkers and exercise."

"Faces light up and people with aches and pains perk up when volunteers and kids come to visit at retirement communities," says housing manager Kathy Ryan. "Visits can bring vibrancy to a place often over-dosed with routine."

There are volunteer opportunities year-round, especially in January and February when the busy holiday season is over. Consider contacting the activity department of a senior community near you and discover how you and your kids can serve. Along the way your kids will learn lessons in compassion and citizenship while they boost their self-confidence. And there's another bonus: It feels good!



Here are some ideas for sharing your personalities, talents and time with the needs of seniors:

■ Read books, greeting cards and magazine articles aloud to individuals or groups.

■ Play an instrument such as the piano or guitar at mealtime.

■ Assist in crafts and woodworking projects.

■ Assist in social, theatrical and musical performance events.

■ Write-up a family history as a resident relates it to you and write descriptions of treasured objects or family heirlooms.

■ Tech-savvy teens can help seniors with their computer or help a small organization update its website.

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit [www.donnasday.com](http://www.donnasday.com) and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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# Life & Style

## On JFK 50th, Kennedy family gathers in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fifty years ago Thursday, President John F. Kennedy told the world that “the torch had been passed to a new generation of Americans” whom he challenged to “ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”

Caroline Kennedy told The Associated Press that she has been thinking over her father’s oft-quoted inaugural speech on Jan. 20, 1961, when he proclaimed that Americans “shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of liberty.”

“I think he really expanded and redefined our idea of what it means to be a citizen—that everybody has something to contribute and everybody has something to give back to this country that’s given us so much,” Caroline Kennedy said. “It’s not just an obligation, but it’s really a rewarding experience and really a belief in government and politics as a noble profession.”

Kennedy joined members of her father’s administration, civil rights activists, astronaut Buzz Aldrin and members of the first class of the Peace Corps—which



U.S. President John F. Kennedy delivers his inaugural address after taking the oath of office at Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. in this Jan. 20, 1961 file photo.

JFK established—to mark the 35th president’s legacy at the Capitol on Thursday.

About 100 members of the Kennedy family gathered at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The center on the bank of the Potomac River stands as a living tribute to Kennedy, whose White House embraced the arts.

It opened three weeks of performances that will recreate moments from those “Camelot” days.

President Barack Obama in

opening the concert Thursday night paid tribute to the “unfinished life” of JFK and said his inauguration and his accompanying call for Americans to serve their country still “inspires us and lights our way.”

Obama, who wasn’t born until later in 1961, hailed Kennedy for leading a “volatile America in this tinderbox of a world,” with a steady hand, “defusing the most perilous crisis since the Cold War without firing a single shot.” He also noted Kennedy’s work to help blacks attend their

choice of college, launch the Peace Corps of goodwill ambassadors around the world and set America’s sights on landing on the moon.

Though the country faces different challenges today, Obama said, “we cannot forget we are the heirs of this president who showed us what was possible. Because of that vision, I can stand here today as president of the United States.”

Earlier, speaking at a ceremony in the Capitol’s rotunda, Vice President Joe Biden said Kennedy’s cause was to bring America back “to what it should be.”

“His call to service literally, not figuratively, still resounds from generation to generation,” Biden said.

The celebrations come as the Kennedy power in Washington has faded. For the first time in 63 years no one with the Kennedy name is serving in elected office. Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island left the U.S. House this month.

Caroline Kennedy said she wouldn’t be surprised if someone in her family returned to national politics—but that it probably wouldn’t be her. She flirted with a 2008 Senate bid in New York but bowed out.

Instead, she is announcing a new “Ask Not” public service campaign with Jimmy Fallon aimed at youth as part of a series of events to reconnect the Kennedy legacy with a new generation. The spots featuring Fallon will air on Viacom, Comcast and CBS television channels to promote the new website JFK50.org.

Caroline Kennedy hasn’t given up on politics, though. While many young people place a high value on volunteering and community service, she said politics has somehow become less attractive to them. And she wants to change that.

## Obama celebrates JFK’s ‘unfinished life’

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Thursday paid tribute to the “unfinished life” of John F. Kennedy and said his inauguration 50 years ago and his accompanying call for Americans to serve their country still “inspires us and lights our way.”

“We are the heirs of this president, who showed us what is possible,” Obama said. “Because of his vision, more people prospered, more people served, our union was made more perfect. Because of that vision I can stand here tonight as president of the United States.”

Obama spoke at a gala marking the anniversary of the inauguration of America’s 35th president. Kennedy held the office for little more than 1,000 days before an assassin’s bullet took his life in November 1963 at age 46 as his motorcade rolled through downtown Dallas.

The celebration was held at the performing arts center on the bank of the Potomac River that stands as a living tribute to Kennedy.

Obama confessed that “I don’t have my own memories of that day.” He was born three months before Kennedy was killed and said he learned about the slain president from the mother and grandparents who raised him.

But, Obama said, “even

now, one half-century later, there is something about that day, Jan. 20, 1961, that feels immediate, feels new and urgent and exciting, despite the graininess of the 16-millimeter news reels that recorded it for posterity.”

He said Kennedy could have chosen a different life, one of luxury, but that he opted instead for one of leadership and idealism, “soaring but sober that inspired the country and the world” five decades ago.

He noted the challenges that Kennedy faced—a standoff with what then was the Soviet Union, another with Cuba over missiles aimed at the U.S., the war in Vietnam and a southern portion of the U.S. that discriminated against people of color.

“I can only imagine how he must have felt entering the Oval Office in turbulent times,” Obama said, as the audience applauded and laughed.

He said Kennedy led a “volatile America, in this tinderbox of a world,” with a steady hand, “defusing the most perilous crisis since the Cold War without firing a single shot.” He also noted Kennedy’s work to help blacks attend their choice of college, launch the Peace Corps of goodwill ambassadors around the world and set America’s sights on landing on the moon.



Obama

### In Loving Memory of Benedicto Tenorio Lizama, Jr.

Born on March 20, 1972  
Was called to his eternal rest  
on January 15, 2011 at the age of 38

**In His new life, he now joins his:**

**Father:** Benedicto C. Lizama

**Grandparents:** Miguel & Antonina C. Tenorio  
Jose & Rita Lizama

**Aunts and Uncles:** Winnifrida and David Aguon,  
Ramon Lizama, Carmen Torres, Manuel Lizama,  
Jim Belibei

**His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:**

**Spouse:** Shirley D. Lizama

**Children:** Benedicto D. Lizama Jr. and Pearly, Ezra,  
Oscar, Antonina Rosemary, Shaun and Kimberly (Mathew)

**Mother:** Rosalina C. Tenorio

**Mother In-Law:** Merry Tomei Castro

**Father In-Law:** Gary Dierking

**Brothers & Sisters:** Robert/Yolanda Lizama and children,  
Joseph T./Charlene Lizama and children, Martin/Raynita  
Camacho and children, Marian/Lorenzo and children,  
Ricky and Glenna, Vince and Benelen.

**Brothers & Sisters In-Law:** Jesse and Daisy Castro,  
Ben and Doris Mesa, Joseph and Akane Castro.

She is also survived by numerous aunts and uncles,  
relatives and friends.

Daily Rosary is being held at his residence in San Roque  
at 8:00pm

On Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 4:00pm, his remains will be  
escorted from CHC to his residence in San Roque for  
his wake. Mass of Christian Burial will be on  
Monday, January 24, 2011 at 10:00am, followed  
by Interment service at San Roque Cemetery.

**Shirley D. Lizama & children**

## Michael Jackson’s estate sues over website

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson’s estate is seeking the shutdown of a website that is selling a book written by the singer’s mother and has released music attributed to the late pop superstar.

The singer’s estate sued businessman Howard Mann, who operates the website <http://www.jacksonsecretvault.com>, on Thursday, claiming both are infringing on copyrights and pose unfair competition.

The website features a book of Katherine Jackson’s recollections of her son and released a remix of a Jackson song shortly before the release of a posthumous album last year.

The copyright infringement lawsuit asks a federal judge to turn over the website to the estate. It also seeks all profits from the website, which would go to the multimillion estate that sup-

ports Katherine Jackson and the singer’s three children.

An e-mail message sent to the site’s operators was not immediately returned.

The complaint alleges Mann and the site are using Jackson’s likeness improperly, including images from the film “This Is It” and five sketches the singer drew. The lawsuit states Mann

has created a false endorsement by including a “special thanks” to the estate in Katherine Jackson’s book despite not receiving permission for the use of copyrighted works. Several of the Jackson Secret Vault releases have occurred at the same time as estate projects were being released, including the anniversary of Jackson’s death and the release of the album “Michael”

in December. That album sold more than three million copies.

“The Estate had hoped Mann would voluntarily cease his conduct but that was not

to be,” estate attorney Howard Weitzman wrote in a statement. “People who trade off of Michael’s personality, copyrights, and trademarks should not be allowed to exploit the legacy of one of the world’s most recognized talents for their own benefit.”

Jackson’s estate, overseen by attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain, has earned millions and some experts estimate it will eventually rival the lucrative estate of Elvis Presley.

Several lawsuits over Jackson’s likeness and copyright have been filed by the estate and merchandiser Bravado.



Jackson



## Cyprus Church thanks Boy George for icon's return

**NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)**—Cyprus' Orthodox Christian Church on Thursday thanked former Culture Club singer Boy George for returning an icon of Christ that it says was stolen from a church in the breakaway north of the divided island. Boy George agreed to return the 18th century icon he bought from a London art dealer in 1985 after being presented with proof of its true origin, the church said in a statement posted on its Web site.

"Before this, I had no idea who Boy George was," Brussels-based Bishop Porfyrios who led efforts for the icon's recovery told The Associated Press. "He was positive about returning the icon."

The church said it was alerted about the icon's whereabouts by an informer who saw the singer with it on a Dutch TV show last November.

Boy George, who said he was unaware of the icon's history when he bought it, personally handed the icon over to Bishop Porfyrios in London on Tuesday. In return, the bishop gave him a modern icon of Christ as a token of gratitude and "with the wish that others soon follow his example."

The leader of the Cyprus church, Archbishop Chrysostomos II, lauded the singer for doing the right thing.

"The moment he heard that the icon was stolen, I think that he did right to return it to the Church of Cyprus to which it belongs," the archbishop said. "We thank him and if he ever comes to Cyprus, we will certainly welcome him."

The church statement said Boy George expressed hope that the icon would soon be returned to the church of Saint Charalambos in the village of Neo Chorio Kythreas from where it was taken. The icon is now in Brussels and will return to the island later.

The church says scores of religious artifacts, including icons and mosaics, were looted from Greek Cypriot churches in the Turkish Cypriot north after Turkey's 1974 invasion, which followed a failed coup by supporters of union with Greece.

## Clooney to discuss recovery from malaria on CNN

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—George Clooney has recovered from the malaria he contracted earlier this month during a visit to Sudan.

Publicist Stan Rosenfield says it was the actor's second bout with the disease.

Clooney is set to discuss the

condition and his work in Africa on Piers Morgan's CNN show Friday.

The actor says his own experience with the disease shows how proper medication can turn "the most lethal condition in Africa" into "a bad 10 days instead of a death sentence."



Clooney

## Globes host Gervais says he was just doing his job

**NEW YORK (AP)**—As host of the Golden Globe Awards, Ricky Gervais took sharp, arguably cruel jabs at targets including Charlie Sheen, Cher, the nominated film "The Tourist" and even the sponsoring Hollywood Foreign Press Association. Just doing his job, Gervais insists.

"If they didn't want me, they shouldn't have hired me," he said on CNN's "Piers Morgan Tonight" on Thursday.

"I don't think I did anything wrong," Gervais said. "Those were like gibes at these people, and I'm sure they've got a sense of humor."

"I'm not going to apologize for being true to myself," he said. "My strategy is to make me laugh. If there's anyone in the

world like me, that's a bonus."

Morgan asked if any topic is ever off-limits for a wisecrack at a celebrity's expense.

"Do you care about what they may be going through in their private lives?" he inquired, perhaps referring to Robert Downey Jr., whom Gervais introduced at Sunday's NBC awards show by saying, "Many of you in this room probably know him best from such facilities as the Betty Ford Clinic and Los Angeles County Jail."

"I don't have an addiction," replied Gervais, adding, "I'm not judging them for what they did."

"You're mocking them, aren't you?" Morgan pressed.

"No, I'm not," Gervais said. "I'm confronting the elephant in

the room. ... Like I'm going to go out there and NOT talk about the issues in their industry. Don't forget, I've got to be an outsider there. I mustn't come out there as everyone's mate and schmooze—that's nauseating. I've got to come out there, and I've got to roast them."

Gervais, who was making his second appearance as Golden Globes host, said he took the job on the condition that he could say what he wanted. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which administers the Globes, didn't clear his material beforehand.

"They didn't want to see it," he said.

There has been no official word on whether Gervais will be back next year.

## Jesse James says he's engaged to marry Kat Von D

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Motorcycle man Jesse James is engaged to tattoo artist Kat Von D.

"It's true," James told The Associated Press on Thursday.

No wedding date has been announced.

James and Von D began dating over the summer after his very public split from Oscar-winner Sandra Bullock.

The 41-year-old biker-businessman and reality TV star called Von D his best friend. Von D, whose real name is Katherine von Drachenberg, says James is the one. The 28-year-old stars on the TLC reality show "LA Ink."

The engagement was first reported Thursday by People.com.

James told the magazine, "2010 was actually the best year of my life because I fell in love with my best friend. An amazing woman who stood behind me when the world turned their backs."

James and Bullock were mar-



James

Von D

ried for five years. Their marriage collapsed amid allegations of infidelity just after Bullock won an Oscar for her role in "The Blind Side" in March 2010. James apologized publicly to the actress and his three children from previous relationships for causing them "pain and embarrassment beyond comprehension."

He later told ABC's "Nightline" that he was the most hated man in the world for capping

off Bullock's career high with a deeply personal low.

The couple separated in March and their divorce was finalized in June.

James began professing his love for Von D on Twitter earlier this month, writing on Jan. 9: "I have Never Felt so Loved! I'm The Luckiest (man) in the World!"

Von D posted on the microblogging site Thursday that she is "overwhelmed with joy."

## Son yearns to find a way to connect with critical dad

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a father who's always mean to me. He finds reasons to yell at me—for example, the trash isn't taken out or the dishes aren't washed. He isn't involved in my educational life at all. When my teachers request a conference with my parents, he almost never shows up. When I graduated from elementary school and middle school, he didn't come to either of the ceremonies.



*Dear Abby*

I'll talk to my dad about these things sometimes, and he says he's sorry and the next day he'll buy me something to try and make it up to me. He can be really nice when he wants to be, but most of the time he's a mean person. He is always putting me down, calling me an idiot and saying I'm worthless and a good-for-nothing son. I really want to become friends with my father, but it seems he doesn't. What can I do?

WANTS A FATHER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**DEAR WANTS A FATHER:** You may not be the perfect son, but you are NOT good-for-nothing, worthless or an idiot. What you have described is sad, because this may be a "parenting technique" your dad learned from his own father. I don't know whether he's an alcoholic, a workaholic or what other reasons there may be for his absence and his guilt. But "Father of the Year" he's not, and if you want a male you can look up to, you will have to find one elsewhere. Talk to your mother about this if you haven't, and ask her to guide you. You have my sympathy.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My son and his girlfriend of 13 years, "Liza," broke up, and my son has moved out of the house they bought together. They still have a lot to settle, but so far, they remain on reasonably good terms.

The news of their split has left my wife and me feeling bad. We developed a bond with Liza over the years and we are unsure how to proceed from here. We feel she has become a part of our family, especially since she has no real family of her own.

We would like to express our sorrow for their breakup, wish her the best in the future and, perhaps, maintain friendly contact. We do not want to upset our son by doing this.

Please advise me on how we should proceed. What is the proper approach for parents and other family members in this situation?

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE IN OTTAWA

**DEAR CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE:** You're asking the wrong person. The person you should discuss this with is your son. While it is understandable that you feel Liza is a member of the family, the truth is she isn't in the literal sense. The extent to which you keep her in your lives may depend upon the circumstances of the breakup. While the extended family may wish to maintain relationships with her on an individual basis, whether your son would be comfortable having her present during family holidays is yet to be determined.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 17. My 15-year-old sister and I know each other's thoughts and feelings almost as well as our own. Unfortunately, we also know when the other's funny bone is "tickly"—and it starts a giggling fit. When we start, we can't stop.

We get these fits at the most inappropriate times. We are at our wit's end. Can you help?

GIGGLE GIRLS IN LANCASTER, PA.

**DEAR GIGGLE GIRLS:** Yes. When you know something is funny, but it is inappropriate to start giggling, the two of you should not make eye contact. That will solve your problem.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Bush, ex-officials mark Gulf War anniversary

**COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)**—Former President George H.W. Bush and top officials from his administration are remembering the Gulf War as a time in history when the world stood united against a tyrant as well as a "textbook example" of how to go to battle. Bush and key members of his national secu-

rity team gathered Thursday at Texas A&M University before a crowd of 3,500 people - including Gulf War veterans - to discuss the 20th anniversary of the conflict that began on Jan. 17, 1991. Bush said liberating Kuwait during the war and commanding the U.S.-led coalition troops that fought was one of the great honors of his life. The war was prompted by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait

in August 1990. The U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait six months later.

### Eastwood and Beyonce discussing 'A Star Is Born'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Clint Eastwood and Beyonce may be teaming up to make a musical version of "A Star Is Born." Warner Bros. confirms that the two are in negotiations to re-

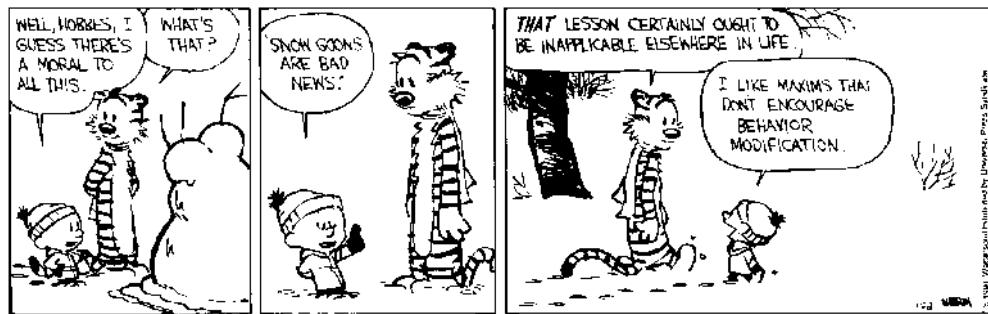
make the 1937 classic. Eastwood is in talks to direct, while Beyonce, who has been attached to the project for some time, would star. Set to produce are Billy Gerber, Basil Iwanyk and Jon Peters, who made the 1976 version of the film with Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson. Corporate spokeswoman Jessica Zacholl notes that the deals have not been finalized and negotiations are ongoing.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

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8 Show-room sample  
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13 Signet  
14 Pic to click  
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18 Trivial consideration  
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22 Carnival city  
23 Cher's early partner  
26 Foundation  
27 H look-alike  
30 Rodriguez at third base  
31 Morning cupful  
32 Anne-lope's playmate  
33 Toxic spray

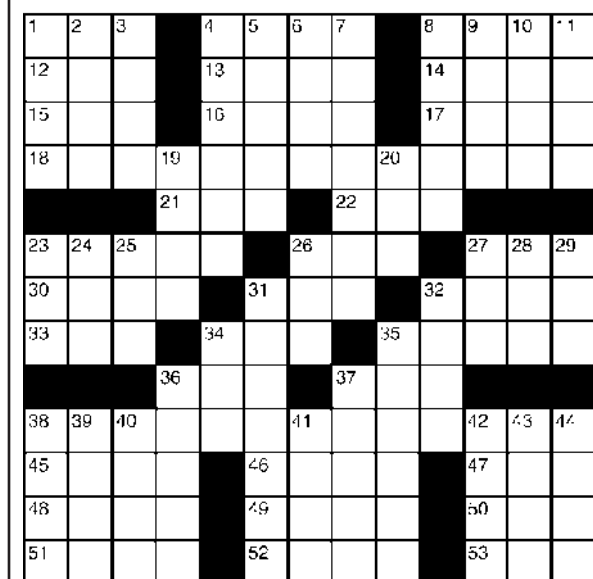
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10 Oliver Twist's request  
11 Responsibility  
19 Sharp-sighted wildcat  
20 Help  
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24 Antique  
25 Trawler need  
26 Carton  
27 Moray or conger  
28 Afternoon got together  
29 Curved line  
31 Hussy  
32 Platter  
34 Brooks or Blanc  
35 "Star Wars" weaponry  
36 Put on a show  
37 Rouse  
38 Sneeze impediment  
39 Between jobs  
40 Rend  
41 Five-star review  
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**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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**Yesterday's answer 1-22**



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Christopher Masterson, 31; Balthazar Getty, 36; Diane Lane, 46; Linda Blair, 52

**Happy Birthday:** Working as a team player will lead to bigger and better results. Your knowledge, coupled with your problem-solving skills, will put you in a key position. Rely on your talents and those who complement your skills in order to reach your destiny in the shortest amount of time. Your numbers are 5, 11, 15, 27, 31, 36, 42

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Acting impulsively will not solve your problems. Concentrate more on what you can do to utilize your talents. A relationship you form is likely to confuse you. For now, enjoy the company but don't make any promises. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** The more you interact with others, the better you will feel about yourself and your life. Use your knowledge and wisdom to combat any setback you face. Your negotiation skills will be stellar, so don't be afraid to speak up. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You can fix up your home and make changes that will allow you to be more productive. An investment that produces extra cash will make life easier and give you a chance to achieve some of your personal goals. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Do your homework before you make changes at home. You may want to confront someone who will be affected by your decisions and plans. Join forces instead of causing animosity. Speak from the heart. ★★★★★



**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You need to get out and explore new avenues if you want to put some excitement and adventure into your life. Love is in the stars but, if you move too quickly, you could get hurt or disappoint someone. Slow down and savor the moment. ★★★



**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Put more effort into home and family. Plan something you can enjoy with young and old alike. The thought you put into pleasing others will enhance your reputation and help you gain approval for a project you want to pursue. ★★★



**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't give in to pressure or bullying. The way to handle someone's threats is to say no and walk away. You have too much to lose if you fold when you should be doing your own thing. ★★★



**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Calculate your moves and put your strategy into play. Don't take chances when so much is at stake. Practical application will bring greater results and lead to an interesting connection with someone who has something to offer in return. ★★★★★



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** If you believe in what you are doing, don't let anyone deter you from following through. You may feel limited due to a wage freeze or being in a position that leads nowhere. It may be time to rethink your game plan or to check out other options. ★★



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Adding value to what you already have will make a difference in the future. Think ahead and you will find a way to ease your

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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stress and accommodate your needs. Give a gentle push if you need to get someone's approval. ★★★★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** There is a good chance you can get involved in a moneymaking business if you divide your time up properly. Working from home or in your spare time can be a profitable setup. Be adaptable and available. ★★★



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Your expertise, coupled with your experience and work ethic will enable you to pull off something not many people could do. You'll be an asset to any group you volunteer to help. Don't let a personal matter cause you to miss a great opportunity. ★★★

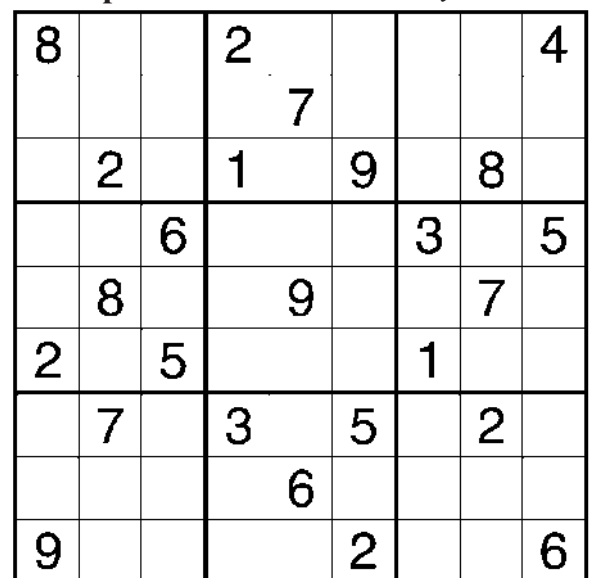
**Birthday Baby:** You are original but practical, inventive but analytical. You are playful but cautious and don't take anything or anyone for granted.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

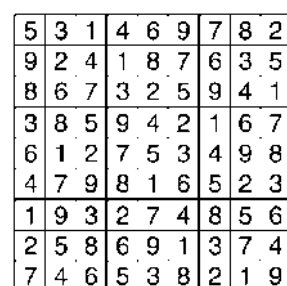


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

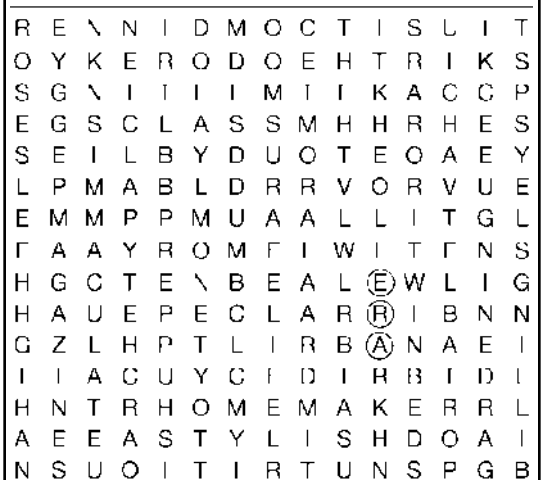
## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them, and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JUNE CLEAVER HAS LEFT US

Solution: 8 letters



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Archetype, Barbara, Beaver, Billingsley, Blue, Bride, Cake, Class, Dinner, Fra, Garden ng, H q, H eals, Homemaker, Immaculate, Ladylike, Lectures, Lives, Magazines, Partha, Meetings, Voner, Mora, Mother, Nutritous, Pearl, Peggy, Portable TV, Prep, Roses, School, Sitcom, Smart, Social, Stylish, Suit, Theodore, Twirl, Beds, Upper, Wally, Ware  
**Yesterday's Answer: Copyright**  
HOMELAND, JOURNAL, MOTHER, PEARL, PEGGY, PORTABLE, PREP, RISES, SCHOOLS, SITUATION, SMART, SOCIAL, STYLISH, SUIT, THEODORE, TWIRL, BEDS, UPPER, WALLY, WARE  
1/22



**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



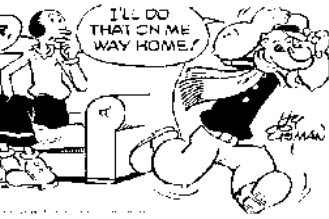
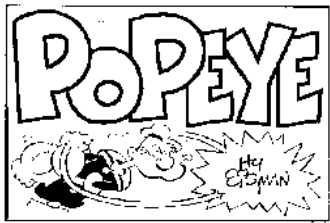
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**Wishing Well®**

5	3	7	8	4	7	2	5	7	2	6	3	6
L	R	S	S	F	W	W	O	E	I	B	E	U
7	2	4	5	3	4	6	2	5	7	5	7	8
E	S	A	O	S	I	S	H	K	T	T	V	T
4	3	8	7	3	2	7	3	6	7	4	8	2
T	T	E	I	R	G	C	I	Y	T	H	A	R
6	3	7	3	4	8	7	5	3	4	7	4	6
D	C	O	T	F	D	R	O	I	U	Y	L	A
8	4	5	4	8	2	4	3	6	3	8	4	5
Y	I	T	N	P	A	L	O	Y	N	R	O	I
3	4	6	4	8	2	8	3	5	2	5	2	3
L	V	S	E	O	N	G	I	E	1	F	E	F
8	2	5	3	5	3	8	3	5	8	5	8	5
R	D	U	T	T	F	F	D	U	S	R	S	F

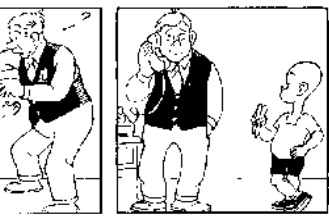
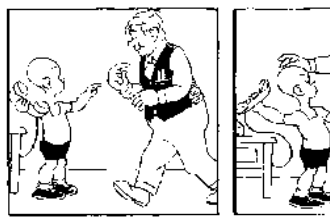
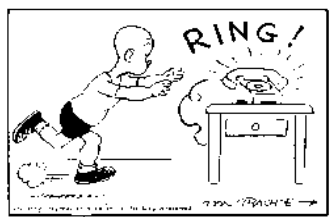
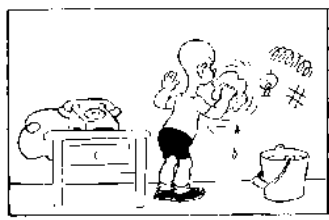
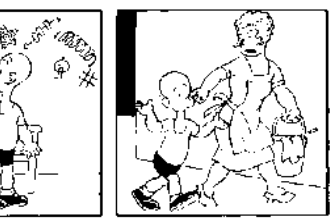
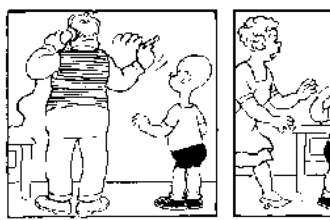
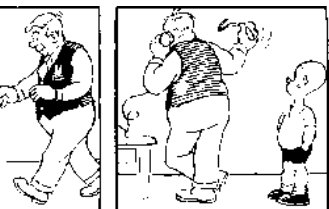
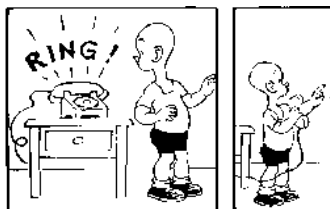
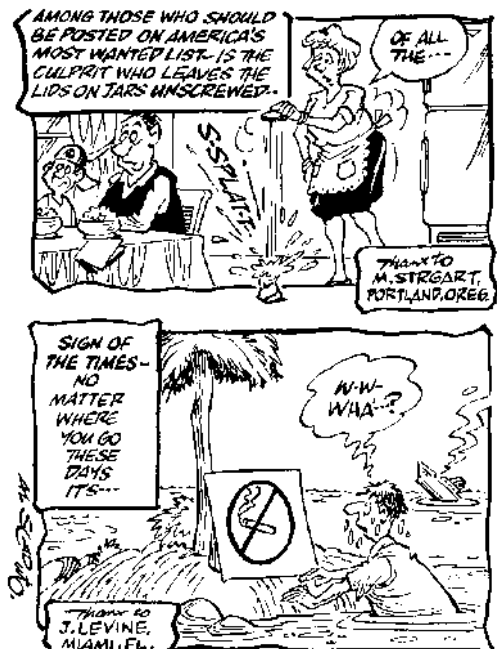
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto



**Super Crossword** GENE POOL

**ACROSS**

- 1 "Lil" actress
- 6 Decorous
- 11 Jack of 'Rio Lobo'
- 15 With 10 Down, "Cheers" star
- 18 Entice
- 19 It's tossed with sauce
- 20 Walker's offering
- 21 Medical grp.
- 22 Gene Barry role
- 24 Gene Autry's horse
- 26 Maestro de Wael
- 27 Evened the score
- 28 Prophets
- 30 "So — You" (// song)
- 31 Torrid or frigid
- 32 Bluesman James
- 35 Le Carre title start
- 37 Zeal
- 40 Tea of "Deep Impact"
- 41 Diplomacy
- 42 Libertine
- 43 "Macbeth" role
- 46 Kind of rare
- 50 Vex
- 51 Linda of "Dynasty"
- 52 Revise a manuscript

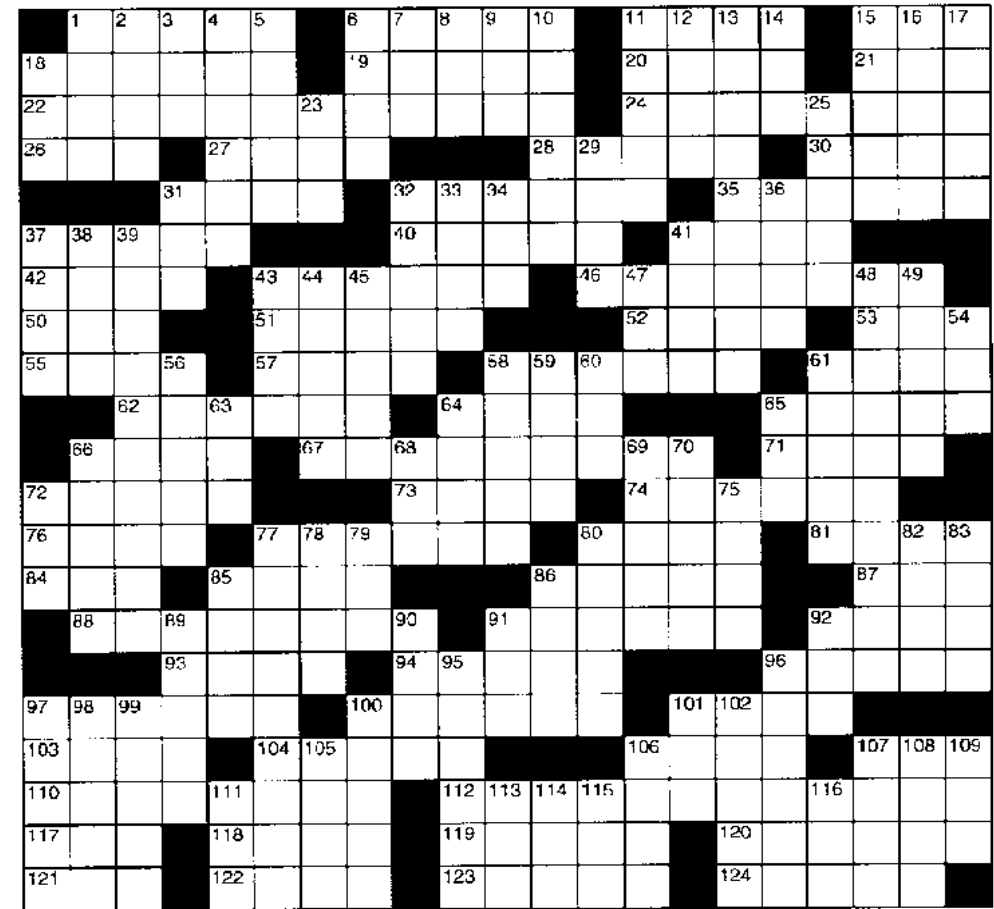
- 53 Start to snooze
- 55 Colors
- 57 Gouda garbage
- 58 Schedule
- 61 Fluffy haired
- 62 Annette of "48HRS."
- 64 Privy to
- 65 Refuse
- 66 Out of range
- 67 Gene Sarazen invention
- 71 Architect Saarinen
- 72 "Die Fledermaus" maid
- 73 "Oh, wool!"
- 74 Irrational
- 76 Stocking stuffer?
- 77 Somewhat
- 80 Scenter of your face?
- 81 — ce-camp
- 84 Blunder
- 85 Top-notch
- 86 Fido's friend
- 87 Fido's physician
- 88 Silver-tongued
- 91 Not long ago
- 92 Kid
- 93 "Litter's" ittiest
- 94 Mead's "Coming — in Samoa"

- 96 Trier "Thankst"
- 97 "Cafe" (88 film)
- 100 Pooped one's paws
- 101 Actress Verdon
- 103 Farm measure
- 104 Swap
- 106 Shopping center
- 107 Zoo attraction
- 110 Gene Roddenberry creation
- 112 Gene Krupa's bandleader
- 117 Sky light?
- 118 Part of NB
- 119 Stalin's predecessor
- 120 Stereo components
- 121 Choose, with "for"
- 122 Bird food
- 123 "Maria —"
- 124 Clear the slate

- 5 Varnish ingredient
- 6 Tore
- 7 Pina product
- 8 Burro
- 9 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
- 10 See 15 Across
- 11 Roast host
- 12 Annealing over
- 13 '56 Ingrid Bergman film
- 14 Silent
- 15 Use one's noodle
- 16 Overact
- 17 Patron
- 18 Vigoda or Fortas
- 23 Placekicker's prop
- 25 It's spotted out West
- 29 Lexicographer
- 31 Actress Wanamaker
- 32 African antelope
- 33 "Why don't we?"
- 34 Berg or Drabowsky
- 36 "Kew Jack City" actor
- 37 Saharan
- 38 Actor Calhoun

- 39 Gene Chandler hit
- 41 Barber Sweeney
- 43 Leander's love
- 44 Iniquities
- 45 Crete's capita
- 47 Dawson of football
- 48 Gene Hackman film
- 49 Museum piece
- 54 Computer acronym
- 56 Play for time
- 58 Statesman Sadat
- 59 Departs
- 60 Goa
- 61 Amphitheater feature
- 63 Nev. neighbor
- 64 Unemployed
- 65 "Agnus —"
- 66 Cherish
- 68 Uh-uh
- 69 Florida feature
- 70 Blackboard support
- 72 "Stroker —" (83 film)
- 75 Quite
- 77 "Shaft" star
- 78 Without — (daringly)
- 79 Decimal base

- 80 Big-name Secretary e.g.
- 83 Diminutive suff x
- 85 Blue hue
- 86 Ire
- 89 Court cry
- 90 Spilled the beans
- 91 Negligent
- 92 Tenor Pearce
- 95 Weak
- 96 Circuitous course
- 97 Lowdown crooner?
- 98 Behave like a brat
- 99 Engowment
- 100 Pretended
- 101 Berle bit
- 102 Knocked out a novel
- 105 Artist Magritte
- 106 Sociable stalling
- 107 The — Brothers
- 108 Reduce, with "down"
- 109 USNA grad
- 111 Recipe abbr.
- 113 Conger or moray
- 114 Compass pt.
- 115 Pa indromic d anst
- 116 "Jurassic Park" stu'l



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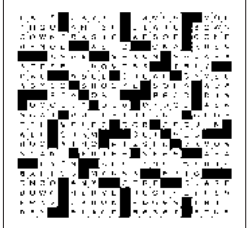


1. GEOGRAPHY: In what body of water are the Seychelles Islands located?
2. MOVIES: Who directed the movies "Stagecoach" and "The Grapes of Wrath"?
3. CHEMISTRY: What element's symbol is C?
4. MUSIC: What rock 'n' roll band

5. HISTORY: What Union general captured Vicksburg, Miss., after a 40-day siege?
6. SCIENCE FICTION: What fictional character had a flying lab
7. LITERATURE: Who wrote "Riders of the Purple Sage"?
8. MYTHOLOGY: Hera was the sister and the wife of which Greek god?
9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What U.S.

10. INVENTIONS: When was the ballpoint pen invented?

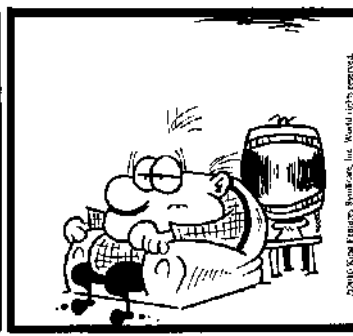
**Saturday's Answers**



1. Indian Ocean
2. John Ford
3. Carbon
4. Jefferson Airplane
5. Ulisses S. Grant
6. Tom Swift
7. Zane Grey
8. Zeus
9. Herbert Hoover
10. 1938

**The Spats**

by Jeff Pickering





# CLASSIFIED ADS



*Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.*

## CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

*Saipan Tribune* also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$27</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$39</b>
• 3-Liner with picture	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$42</b>
• 5-Liner with picture	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$57</b>

## ADVERTISING DEADLINE

## Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

## CANCELLATION

## Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

## REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met.  
No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

## CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

## ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

1. Glance
- 2.
3. Glance

W. A. Zlot & J. H. Wertz  
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## Find today's solution in this section





# Wozniacki, Djokovic advance; Henin out



**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)**—Justine Henin has been eliminated in the third round of the Australian Open, losing 6-4, 7-6 (8) to Svetlana Kuznetsova on Friday just a year after reaching the final in her comeback to Grand Slam tennis.

It was Henin's first loss in a major to Kuznetsova, the former French and U.S. Open champion, and her worst run at a Grand Slam event since Wimbledon in 2005.

Henin was only weeks into a comeback from a career break from the tour when she lost the final last year to Serena Williams, the third time in four appearances that she'd reached the championship match at Melbourne. Her comeback season was derailed when she injured her right elbow at Wimbledon and didn't play again in 2010.

The seven-time Grand Slam winner put up quite a fight in this one.

Kuznetsova twice had chances to serve out the match but Henin broke her both times. In a fluctuating tiebreaker, Kuznetsova was ahead 6-4 before Henin sent a service return skidding down the line and took the next point. She netted a forehand to give Kuznetsova another match point at 8-7 but again hit a powerful forehand service return winner.

Henin finally lost when she sent a forehand wide, giving Kuznetsova only her third win in 19 head-to-head meetings.

In the previous match on center court, Caroline Wozniacki beat Dominika Cibulkova 6-4, 6-3 to avenge last week's loss in a tuneup tournament.

Then she turned the tables on the media. Hearing she'd come across as a bit boring in recent interviews, she opened a post-match news conference with a funny monologue, saying she knew what would be asked so she'd just give her stock answers one-by-one. Then she invited questions on "more interesting" topics, such as the piano, cricket, soccer and what she's looking for in a boyfriend.

Wozniacki, playing her first Grand Slam as the world No. 1, is seeking her first major win.

"I am happy I got the revenge since I lost to her in Sydney last week; It was not an easy match; She went out there, she was really on fire; You know, I'm happy to be through to the next round," the 20-year-old Danish player worked through the answers to the usual questions.

French Open champion Francesca Schiavone also moved on, beating Monica Niculescu of Romania 6-0, 7-6 (2). No. 9 Li Na of China, who reached the semifinals here last year before losing in two tie-break sets against Williams, advanced with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Barbora Zahlavova Strycova.

Novak Djokovic only had to play one set in the third round to advance. The 2008 Australian champion was



Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a backhand return to compatriot Viktor Troicki during their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 21, 2011.

leading Viktor Troicki 6-2 when his Serbian Davis Cup teammate retired due to a stomach muscle strain.

"It's not really the way you want to win—especially if you're playing against one of your best friends," Djokovic said. "Unfortunately he wasn't able to play 100 percent of his abilities."

Djokovic next plays No. 14 Nicolas Pietrangeli, who beat No. 17 Ivan Ljubicic 6-4, 7-6 (8), 6-3.

Andy Roddick overcame a slow start before powering to victory against Robin Haase, hitting 32 aces in a 2-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2, 6-2 victory.

The eighth-seeded Roddick is seeking his second Grand Slam title nearly seven years after his first—

the 2003 U.S. Open.

Haase received treatment on his right ankle early in the first set, getting it heavily taped after appearing to stumble on a shot. The trainer was back out at the end of the set for Haase, who broke Roddick's serve twice.

The Dutchman, despite the injury, made the shot of the tournament so far, chasing down a Roddick lob and hitting a flick backhand over the net while facing the back of the court. Haase won the point two shots later.

"He was playing great early on," Roddick said. "The biggest thing was just to turn it around in the second set."

## Vegas and Weekley share lead at Bob Hope Classic



**LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP)**—Jhonattan Vegas isn't exactly sure how his Venezuelan parents came up with the unusual

spelling of his first name.

If the 26-year-old rookie manages to keep up his swift start at the Bob Hope Classic, the golf world will have to memorize it quickly.

Vegas shot a 5-under 67 in windy conditions Thursday for a share of the second-round lead with Boo Weekley.

Weekley had a 66 to match Vegas at 13-under 131 in the 90-hole tournament on four Palm Springs-area courses. Charles Howell III (66) and Chris Couch (65) were a stroke back.

Although Vegas bogeyed his final hole on the Nicklaus Private course, he leads the field with 17 birdies. With power and accuracy off the tee, Vegas used an improved short game to get on top early in just his fifth PGA Tour event.

"It's good to be hitting the ball

well and putting well, especially on a course like these ones where you've always got a lot of birdie opportunities," said Vegas, who played at the University of Texas before excelling on the Nationwide Tour last year.

Although many pros still don't know him—Weekley had never met Vegas before they shook hands in the media tent after the second round—others already call him "Jhonny Vegas." As for the unique spelling on his birth certificate, Vegas realizes it might take a while to catch on.

"I'm happy they did it that way, because it's something different," Vegas said. "I mean, you only see one Jhonattan spelled that way, so once you see it, you know that it's me."

Vegas moved to the United States in 2002, spending nearly two years improving his English enough to attend college. He became the first Venezuelan to earn a PGA Tour card last year.

The sport is viewed with a raised eyebrow in Venezuela by President Hugo Chavez, who calls it a pastime

of the rich. In hilly Caracas, the government has threatened to replace golf courses occupying valuable areas of flat land with housing that will be less vulnerable to rain and mudslides.

"I'd love the chance to tell people about golf in Venezuela," said Vegas, whose father runs a catering company. "(Chavez) has always said that golf is for elite people, I guess, and as we all know here, it's not that way. But I guess he's got that mentality, so I really hope to sit down with him and talk to him, and tell him it's not that way."

Chavez made the cut at last week's Sony Open in Hawaii, although he didn't get to play Sunday due to the weather-shortened field. He got off the islands in time to survey all four courses in Palm Springs before Wednesday's opening round.

The Hope Classic typically is dominated by low scores, and both leaders won't be surprised if the winner of the five-round event checks in at 30 under.

"We've played two of the easier courses, me and Mr. Vegas, so it just

all depends on what can happen tomorrow," Weekley said. "I feel like I can go out there and shoot 3 or 4 under, keep myself in the hunt ... and still have a chance somewhere down the line there."

Weekley birdied his final two Nicklaus holes, wrapping up a sharp round on perhaps the tournament's easiest course. The veteran changed putters after finishing in 27th-place tie at the Sony Open in Hawaii last week, and the switch already has produced remarkable results.

"To 12 feet, 15 feet, I feel like I can make it," Weekley said. "I would say for about the last year, I ain't felt that in a while. I was hoping that this would happen."

Howell shot his second 66 of the tournament, while Couch made three birdies on his final four holes. Keegan Bradley and Brian Davis are two strokes off the lead at 133, while 29 players—including David Duval and Matt Kuchar—were within five strokes of the lead.

## Agassi picked for tennis Hall of Fame

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—The sport that has given Andre Agassi everything is giving him something more.

The baseliner known for his aggressive returns and career Grand Slam announced Thursday that he will be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, telling hundreds of students at a prep school he runs in Las Vegas that tennis has given him much more than eight major titles.

"Tennis has given me everything in my life," Agassi said. "It's given me my wife—it's given me my life's work by allowing me the resources to build this school for you."

Agassi is married to Steffi Graf, who entered the Newport, R.I., hall in 2004. He will be inducted on July 9.

The 40-year-old Las Vegas native set a precedent off the court in terms of fame and endorsements, and won his first major title in 1992 at Wimbledon—where he beat Goran Ivanisevic in five sets.

He went on to win Australian Open titles in 1995, 2000, 2002 and 2003, U.S. Open titles in 1994 and 1999, and the French Open in 1999.

In 1995, Agassi spent 30 weeks as the world's No. 1 player, a ranking he lost when he fell to rival Pete Sampras in the U.S. Open final.

Agassi said Thursday Sampras was the best player he faced most of his career, until he met Roger Federer.

"I just realized that he was going to be the giant of the game," Agassi said.

Agassi said his proudest moment on the court was winning the 1999 French Open to complete the career Grand Slam, because it came after he had fallen below the top 100 in rankings after knowing what it felt like to be No. 1.

He said he didn't really believe at the time that he could win the French Open, and was intimidated after going down two sets to Russian Andrei Medvedev.

"I was so scared, my feet couldn't move," Agassi said. "Somehow, I put it all behind me."

The win made him the fifth man in history to complete a career Grand Slam. It also marked a comeback from a deep slump during which he was ranked as low as No. 141.

Agassi revealed in his 2009 book "Open" that he was depressed in 1997, when he was using crystal meth and failed a drug test. The result was thrown out, he said, after he lied by saying he took the drug unwittingly.

Agassi said in the book that when he got to Paris in 1999 the desire to win the French Open had been haunting him for 10 years.

"I can't bear the idea of obsessing about it for another 80," he said in the book. "If I don't win this thing right now, I'll never be happy, truly happy, again."

Agassi told The Associated Press on Thursday that he hoped his personal struggles and style showed people that tennis can be more than just a country club sport.

"I think a lot of us are searching for our identity and a lot of us are searching for ownership of our life," he said. "I think there was a connection that hopefully left people better off."

Agassi had a career record of 870-274 after turning professional in 1986, with 60 total titles and \$31.2 million earned in singles and doubles.



# Blazers win 4th straight, beat Clippers

**PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—**LaMarcus Aldridge had 28 points and eight rebounds, Wesley Matthews added 28 points and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Los Angeles Clippers 108-93 Thursday night, matching a season high with their fourth straight win.

Portland shot 56 percent from the field and went on an 18-6 run to finish the game. Rudy Fernandez had 17 points and Andre Miller added 15 for the Blazers, who are 11-2 in their last 13 home games.

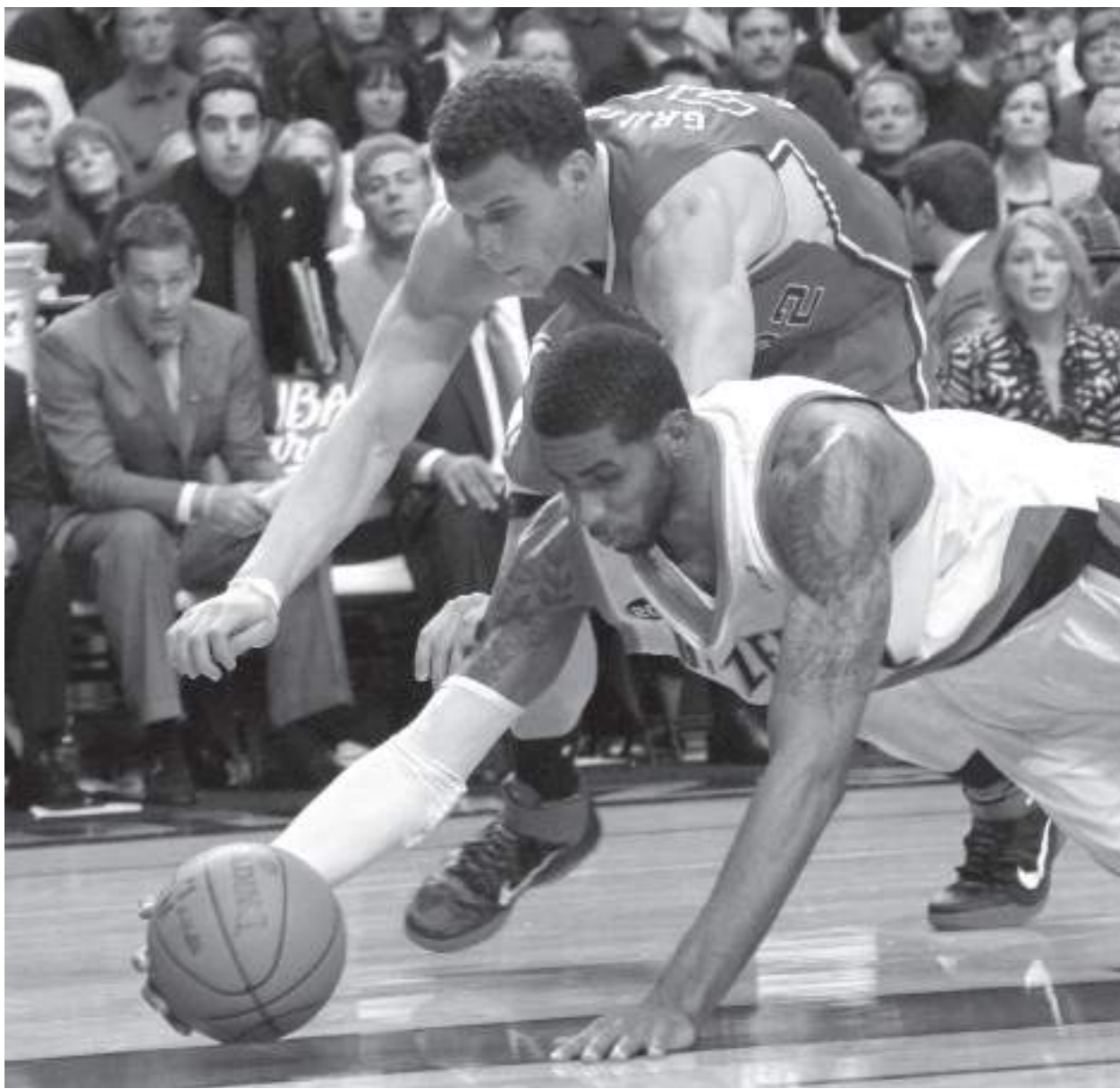
Eric Gordon had 35 points for Los Angeles despite playing with an injured tendon on the ring finger of his shooting hand. Blake Griffin added 20 points and 18 rebounds, and Baron Davis had 16 points.

The Clippers had a three-game winning streak snapped.

Portland took the lead just before halftime and kept it for the rest of the game. Gordon made two 3-pointers and Griffin knocked down a 20-footer to get the Clippers within 90-87. The Blazers went up 96-89 with 3:12 left when Aldridge backed up Griffin and hit a jump hook. Matthews made his fourth 3 and then hit two free throws to put Portland up 101-91. Fernandez scored five straight points to put the Clippers away.

Both teams were playing for second straight night. The Blazers beat the Kings in overtime Wednesday despite playing without Marcus Camby, whose 11.3 rebounds per game rank fifth in the NBA. The Clippers, who started the season 1-13, have been a different team since the middle of December, and they won for the 11th time in 15 games against the Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

Aldridge and Griffin are both con-



Portland Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge, bottom, battles for a loose ball against Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011.

tending for a power forward spot on the Western Conference All-Star team. Griffin entered the game averaging 22.7 points and 12.7 rebounds a

game. On Monday, he scored 47 points against Indiana, and he had a 27-game stretch of double-doubles come to an end Wednesday against Minnesota.

Aldridge entered the game averaging 21.1 points and 8.8 rebounds. He has emerged as the team's most productive player since three-time

All-Star Brandon Roy went out in mid-December, but he had a season-low four points on 2-of-10 shooting against Sacramento.

## Bobcats 100, 76ers 97

At Charlotte, North Carolina, D.J. Augustin scored a career-high 31 points, including four free throws in the final 11 seconds, and Gerald Henderson added three big baskets late, as the Charlotte Bobcats beat the Philadelphia 76ers.

Avenging an overtime defeat to the 76ers four days earlier, the Bobcats won their second straight game the same night they found out forward Tyrus Thomas would be out up two months with a knee injury.

Thaddeus Young scored 15 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter for the Sixers, who rallied from an eight-point deficit to take the lead before Henderson hit three consecutive jumpers.

Andre Iguodala added 19 points, but missed a free throw and a jumper in the final minute in Philadelphia's second straight loss.

## Bulls 82, Mavericks 77

At Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 26 points to lead Chicago past Dallas.

Rose shot 9 for 28 from the field, shouldering a larger-than-usual share of the offensive load in the absence of injured forward Carlos Boozer.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 19 points to lead Dallas, while Jason Terry, Tyson Chandler and DeShawn Stevenson added 12 points apiece. Stevenson took all 10 of his shots from 3-point range, hitting four.

After Rose's pull-up jumper gave the Bulls an 80-77 lead with 55 seconds to go, Terry missed a tying 3-pointer with 15 seconds to play. Chicago's Kyle Korver then made two free throws to seal the win.

**DENVER (AP)—**Carmelo Anthony was hammered by J.R. Smith during a spirited 5 on 5 scrimmage at practice on Thursday. When he stepped to the line, his Denver Nuggets teammates began booing and jeering and scoffing the All-Star forward—just like the home crowd has been doing lately.

"You're a bum, Carmelo!" Smith taunted as Anthony laughed and calmly swished all three free throws.

Anthony was booed during a post-game TV interview at the Pepsi Center Wednesday night following his 35-point performance in Denver's 112-107 win over Oklahoma City, which came hours after the New Jersey Nets ended trade talks for the Nuggets star.

That's not a wise move by the frustrated fans, suggested Kobe Bryant, whose Los Angeles Lakers visit the Nuggets on Friday night. He suggested that if Anthony were at all torn about leaving Denver or staying put, the catcalls might just push him over the edge and on his way.

Bryant said he's only been booed at home once in his 15 years with the Lakers and that was in the 2007-08 opener after saying during that off-season that he wanted to be traded. He said the fans came around when they saw him playing hard.

Anthony's been playing hard, too, but the drama has been playing out since last summer, when Anthony declined to sign a three-year, \$65 million

## Melo-drama continues with Nets out of mix

extension with the Nuggets.

Bryant played with Anthony at the 2008 Olympics and said his friend doesn't necessarily want the bright lights of Broadway but just a shot at a title.

"It has nothing to do with a bigger market," Bryant said. "It's about winning. If you want to keep a player here, make the right decisions, make the right choices, personnel. Get a team around a guy that will help you win and there will be no problems. If Denver will make the right decisions, bring in the right personnel, then he'll stick around."

"It's not rocket science."

What appears to be rocket science, though, is putting together a trade that will satisfy all parties, especially Anthony, who never gave the Nets nor Nuggets an indication one way or the other whether he'd sign his extension to facilitate a trade to New Jersey.

Denver native Chauncey Billups, who's been dragged into the Anthony trade talks, said he understands why Nuggets fans are booing Anthony but sympathizes with his teammate.

"Melo's like a little brother to me, so I hate him going through that," he said.

Anthony, who didn't stop to speak with reporters after practice Thursday, has said the boos don't bother him or affect his game, suggesting he'll always

have his haters one way or the other.

The jeers in Denver are starting to drown out the cheers for the superstar who's led the Nuggets to seven straight playoff berths but has left the extension without his signature, leading general manager Masai Ujiri and team president Josh Kroenke to seek a trading partner so they don't lose him to free agency this summer without any getting anything in return.

Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov canceled his flight to Denver to meet face-to-face Thursday with Anthony and told the team on Wednesday to end trade talks with the Nuggets, saying he was unhappy with how it played out in public, that it took too long, got too expensive and cost his team games.

Ujiri said Wednesday night he's in discussions with "plenty of teams" about Anthony and that he held no animosity toward the Nets for pulling the plug on a proposed trade that would have netted the Nuggets a couple of first-round picks and rookie power forward Derrick Favors.

With the Nets out of the picture, at least for now, the Knicks are expected to get back into the mix with other possibilities including the Bulls, Mavericks and Rockets.

The Nuggets might have to settle for much less from a team that sees An-

thony as a "rent-a-player" for a shot at a championship before losing him as a free agent in a few months.

The Knicks haven't had enough to offer the Nuggets, but they appear to be the one team that could lure Anthony into signing his extension to facilitate a trade.

Anthony was born in Brooklyn and has said he'd love to play in the Big Apple, so with the Nets done talking, the Knicks can expect a bigger wave of Melo chatter.

"We've got to make sure we stay focused and be prepared. We can't let affect us," Knicks star Amare Stoudemire said. "We've got to make sure we still play hard every night."

Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni was surprised to hear that Prokhorov pulled out of his pursuit of Anthony, but he said Wednesday night he didn't think it affects his team. And he said that should some of his players' names get bandied about, he would hope it wouldn't distract them.

"It's part of this business and part of what you have to deal with," D'Antoni said. "You should take it, if your name is ever mentioned in anything, take it as a positive that you're really good. They're probably not mentioning guys that we cut three years ago."

"So, you deal with it, you just go on,

we've got a good thing going here and let's just keep it going."

The Nuggets are telling themselves the same thing.

Despite a rash of injuries and Anthony's situation, they reached the halfway point 24-17. Coach George Karl talks about having the most talented team he's ever had in Denver, but that could all blow up before the Feb. 24 trade deadline if Anthony is dealt, especially if he takes Billups with him.

Billups would like to stay in Denver, his hometown, but he wasn't exactly thrilled when the Nets pulled out, saying, "it's not like the trade got called off because Denver said, 'We're out.'"

Billups said the first indication he got that the Nuggets might be trying to rebuild was when he heard his name thrown into the Anthony trade talks. He said the Nuggets don't need to crash and burn, however.

"We can make a run when healthy," said Billups, who guided Denver to the Western Conference finals two years ago and had them primed to challenge the Lakers for supremacy last season when Kenyon Martin went down with a knee injury and Karl was diagnosed with cancer.

"With all of these guys around, with George healthy, I do, I feel like we can make another run," Billups said. "But it has to be distraction-free. I don't know how you get there."



**TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**

**NBA STANDINGS**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	9	.780	—
New York	22	19	.537	10
Philadelphia	17	25	.405	15 1/2
Toronto	13	29	.310	19 1/2
New Jersey	11	31	.262	21 1/2

**Southeast Division**

Miami	30	13	.698	—
Atlanta	28	15	.651	2
Orlando	27	15	.643	2 1/2
Charlotte	17	24	.415	12
Washington	12	28	.300	16 1/2

**Central Division**

Chicago	29	14	.674	—
Indiana	16	23	.410	11
Milwaukee	15	24	.385	12
Detroit	15	27	.357	13 1/2
Cleveland	8	33	.195	20

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

San Antonio	36	6	.857	—
Dallas	27	15	.643	9
New Orleans	27	16	.628	9 1/2
Houston	20	23	.465	16 1/2
Memphis	19	23	.452	17

**Northwest Division**

Oklahoma City	27	15	.643	—
Utah	27	15	.643	—
Denver	24	17	.585	2 1/2
Portland	24	20	.545	4
Minnesota	10	33	.233	17 1/2

**Pacific Division**

L.A. Lakers	31	13	.705	—
Phoenix	19	21	.475	10
Golden State	18	23	.439	11 1/2
L.A. Clippers	16	26	.381	14
Sacramento	9	31	.225	20

**Yesterday's Games**

Charlotte 100, Philadelphia 97  
Chicago 82, Dallas 77  
Portland 108, L.A. Clippers 93

**BOB HOPE CLASSIC SCORES**

**LA QUINTA, California (AP)**—Scores Thursday from the \$5 million Bob Hope Classic golf tournament, played on the: p-PGA West, Arnold Palmer Private Course (6,950 yards), n-PGA West, Jack Nicklaus Private Course (6,924 yards), the i-La Quinta Country Club (7,060 yards), and the s-SilverRock Resort, Palmer Course (7,403 yards)

**SECOND ROUND**

Jhonattan Vegas	64p-67n-131
Boo Weekley	65p-66n-131
Charles Howell III	66n-66p-132
Chris Couch	67i-65s-132
Keegan Bradley	66n-67p-133
Brian Davis	67p-66n-133
Cameron Tringale	67p-67n-134
John Senden	66s-68l-134
Jeff Overton	69n-65p-134
Greg Chalmers	67n-67p-134
Peter Tomasulo	66s-68l-134
Gary Woodland	65s-69l-134
Ricky Barnes	65s-70l-135
Daniel Summerhays	69s-66l-135
David Duval	68s-67l-135
Jerry Kelly	67i-68s-135
Fredrik Jacobson	65n-70p-135
Kevin Na	69l-67s-136
Tim Petrovic	67p-69n-136
Martin Laird	68l-68s-136
Kevin Streelman	69n-67p-136
Harrison Frazar	68s-68l-136
Derek Lamely	63p-73n-136
Matt Kuchar	66s-70l-136
Kyle Stanley	65i-71s-136
Alex Cejka	69p-67n-136
Kenny Perry	67p-69n-136
Rory Sabbatini	70n-66p-136
Hunter Haas	67n-69p-136
Webb Simpson	68s-69l-137
Steve Flesch	68p-69n-137

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brandt Jobe	68s-69l-137
Steve Elkington	68p-69n-137
Bill Haas	69s-68l-137
Bubba Watson	66s-71l-137
Kevin Chappell	68s-69l-137
Kris Blanks	66l-71s-137
Ryuji Imada	66p-71n-137
Michael Bradley	68p-69n-137
Michael Putnam	69n-68p-137
D.A. Points	67n-70p-137
Dean Wilson	69l-68s-137
Kevin Sutherland	68n-69p-137
Vaughn Taylor	71n-66p-137
Stephen Ames	69p-68n-137
Jeff Klauk	69p-68n-137
Chris Kirk	69l-68s-137
Jason Gore	70n-68p-137
Chad Collins	66p-72n-138
Matt Jones	67p-71n-138
Jeff Maggert	67l-71s-138
Bobby Gates	69n-69p-138
J.J. Henry	64n-74p-138
Pat Perez	68s-69l-138
Brian Gay	69l-69s-138
Brendan Steele	67l-71s-138
Shaun Micheel	66s-72l-138
Chris Stroud	70l-66s-138
Bill Lunde	74p-64n-138
Mark Calcavecchia	69s-69l-138
Ryan Palmer	67l-71s-138
Blake Adams	70l-69s-139
Scott Stallings	71n-68p-139
Paul Stankowski	69s-70l-139
D.J. Trahan	71l-68s-139
Chris Baryla	69p-70n-139
Brendon de Jonge	68s-71l-139
Steve Marino	68l-71s-139
David Mathis	70p-70n-140
Justin Leonard	69s-71l-140
Paul Goydos	68l-72s-140
Kevin Stadler	72s-68l-140
Scott McCarron	70s-70l-140
Jason Dufner	68s-72l-140
William McGirt	70n-70p-140
Zack Miller	74l-66s-140
Brandt Snedeker	70p-70n-140
Chez Reavie	73l-67s-140
Charley Hoffman	68s-72l-140
Marc Turnesa	70l-71s-141
Lee Janzen	68n-73p-141
Bo Van Pelt	69s-72l-141
Matt McQuillan	65p-76n-141
Roland Thatcher	70l-71s-141
Chad Campbell	69n-72p-141
Nate Smith	72p-69n-141
Joe Ogilvie	67s-74l-141
Ben Martin	69p-72n-141
Rich Beem	72n-70p-142
Nathan Green	68n-74p-142
Mark Wilson	69l-73s-142
Jarrod Lyle	70n-72p-142
Nick O'Hern	68p-74n-142
Stewart Cink	72n-70p-142
J.P. Hayes	71n-71p-142
Chris DiMarco	69n-74p-143
Joe Durant	70s-73l-143
Josh Teater	72p-71n-143
Spencer Levin	69n-74p-143
Rod Pampling	71p-72n-143
Jesper Parnevik	73l-70s-143
Heath Slocum	69n-74p-143
Matt Bettencourt	69s-74l-143
David Toms	70l-73s-143
Kevin Kisner	72l-71s-143
Billy Mayfair	70l-73s-143
Scott Verplank	71n-72p-143
Colt Knost	70s-73l-143
Garrett Willis	70p-73n-143
Tommy Gainey	70n-74p-144
Tag Ridings	73l-71s-144
Fabian Gomez	67l-77s-144
Bryce Molder	68l-76s-144
Sam Saunders	73s-72l-145
Mark Brooks	69n-76p-145
John Rollins	74l-71s-145
Cameron Beckman	74p-72n-146
Troy Matteson	72p-74n-146
Brad Faxon	77s-69l-146
Martin Piller	71l-75s-146
Jamie Lovemark	72s-75l-147
Bio Kim	71p-76n-147
Mike Weir	72p-75n-147
Steve Jones	74n-74p-148
Alex Prugh	73p-75n-148
Chris Starkjohann	73n-76p-149
Billy Horschel	77s-75l-152



The IT&E Voyagers of Jonny's Bar and Grill, left, and Who-Oah! of D'Pirates Bar & Grill were crowned 2011 SBA Budweiser Cup champions after the conclusion of their finals matches Tuesday night.

# Voyagers, Who-Oah! Rule Budweiser Cup

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**  
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REPORTER



The IT&E Voyagers and Who-Oah! of D'Pirates Bar & Grill were crowned champions of their respective divisions Tuesday night in the Budweiser Cup of Saipan Billiard Association.

In the Agingan Division, the Voyagers came out on top of a juicy matchup against favored NTT Docomo Hustlers of Utopia Bar at home in Jon-

ny's Bar & Grill.

Although the No. 1-ranked Hustlers dominated the league all season, the Voyagers ruled the night, 4-2.

The Voyagers lost the opening doubles matchup by tiebreaker, but Rolly Villanueva and R.J. Mascarinas righted the ship and swept the second doubles pairing. Then the Voyagers' Jojo Talibong and Rey Pinangay each swept their following singles matches to put the Voyagers at game-point with a 3-1 advantage.

They lost the next singles game, but Luis Fajardo won his

singles match by tiebreaker to crush the Hustlers' hopes for a podium sweep.

Team Who-Oah! displayed a dominating performance at D'Pirates Bar & Grill and shut out sister team Pirates, 4-0, to win Obyan Division's Budweiser Cup.

Last year's Bud Light Cup champs, the Pirates, were thumped by Who-Oah! right out of the gate. The Who-Oah! duo of Ray Takai and Ed Suzuki got to work right away and swept the opening doubles match.

Then Who-Oah!'s Tero Takai

and Randy Sablan kept the it going and won the second doubles pairing via tiebreaker. Who-Oah!'s Joe Villagomez made it game-point at 3-0 after taking the first singles match by tiebreaker, and in similar fashion, Who-Oah!'s Sablan slammed the door on the Pirates in three racks to clinch the team victory.

The SBA awards banquet will be held at 11:30am on Feb. 6 at Pacific Islands Club's Charlie's Cabaret.

For more information, contact acting league secretary Warlee Ellama at 233-4397.

## ARMATECH

From Page 28

Armotech put the ball back in his hands for the majority of the final period and he led them to the Promise Land. Armotech would convert five free throws as time winded down to secure the victory.

Montano tallied 20 points to lead all scorers, while Top 45's Cosino and George Masga managed 15 markers apiece in the loss.

The House's Jun Abedes fouled out in the last period. In addition, five members of The House played their second game of the night and one of their standout players, Tony Diaz, was suffering a knee injury and was held to just one basket in the big game.

In the 45A finals, Top 45

and Kitty Kat duelled in a tight contest from opening tip to the final buzzer.

Tony Luzama and Cosino paced Top 45 with six points apiece to help give their team a slight 23-21 edge after the opening 10 minutes of action.

Then Top 45 stretched it to a two-possession advantage, 47-42, at halftime. Felix Palacios led the way for Top 45 with nine markers in the second quarter, while Abedes tallied 13 points in the first half to help Kitty Kat hang around.

Top 45 extended its lead to eight points, 67-59, heading into the final period. Top 45's Luzama added nine markers to his total in the third quarter, while Kitty Kat's offense struggled aside from connecting with three triples in the period.

Kitty Kat clawed its way

back in the game with a big crunch time push, but came up a little short in the effort. Kitty Kat's defense contained Top 45 to a dismal 14 points in the fourth, specifically Luzama, who was held to just four points in the period.

However, his points all came at the very end and included two clutch free throws that helped secure the victory.

After conclusion of the finals, the teams were awarded with divisional team championship and runner-up trophies. Top 45's Luzama and Armotech's Moreno were recognized with individual most valuable player awards.

Top 45 and The House were also presented with the pennant championship trophies, while Jhem's Restaurant and X-clusive were presented with their

respective 40A and 45A team sportsmanship awards.

### First Game

**Top 45 81** — Luzama 22, Cosino 17, F. Palacios 13, O. Masga 7, J. Palacios 7, Bicara 6, Berline 6.

**Kitty Kat-Ferrera Builders 80** — Abedes 19, Bugay 18, Villegas 18, Garcia 10, Delos Santos 9, Tiples 4, Sahagon 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 23-21, 47-42, 67-59, 81-80.

### Second Game

**Armotech 71** — Montano 20, Trajana 13, Ebuen 12, Moreno 9, Canedo 6, Tobias 3, Arenas 2, Belo 2, Bernardo 2, Malasarte 2.

**The House 66** — Cosino 15, G. Masga 15, Pineda 14, Abedes 11, F. Palacios 3, Diaz 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-11, 38-32, 54-46, 71-66.

## CLASH

From Page 28

line of Top 45; Russel Dequito, Sonny Ebuen, and Noel Puno of Taga Security; Noel Buniag, Dave Demapan, and Joe Tudela of Undertakers; and X-Clusive's Ric Alejandro, Dave Cepeda, and Roy Miguel.

The 40A all-stars are made up of Ed Cosino, Tony Diaz, and George Masga of The House; Armotech's Faustino Belo, Bernardo Montano, and Martin Moreno; Jack Palacios, Jessie Stoll, and Michael Surima of Islander Rent-A-Car; Island Apparel-Under The Rim's Yosh Gabaldon, Yasu Irinaka, and Oscar Masga; Toto Banatasa, Ed

Santos, and Ed Yalung of Jhem's Restaurant; Eric Atalig, Junior Fernandez, and Elias Rangamar of High 5-Ol'Aces; and AON Blood's Frank Babauta, Bernard Cabrera, and Charles Cepeda.

Although the 35A division season does not start until April 6, the all-star team was selected based on the players' performances last season. George De Guzman, Ray Duenas, Leo Factor, Junar Guiab, Diego Masga, Edsel Mendoza, Jun Miday, Ernie Moises, William Opone, Gus Palacios, Edgar Pangelinan, Haegun Park, Jerome Reyes, Oscar Sablan, Marlon Sison, Burt Suda, Jun Tabora, Melvin Vilarin, and Art Trajano make up the 35A all-star crew.

## CERT

From Page 28

inning. D&Q Spam connected four runs, anew in the second inning and added two more in the third to enter the double-digit scoring. CERT continued to struggle in the early innings of the finals, failing to hit a single run in the second and third inning to fall behind, 2-10.

D&Q Spam made it a 12-2 count after four and a half innings, drilling two more runs at the top of the fourth. CERT then broke its spell at the bottom of the fourth, collecting six runs to slice the deficit to four, 8-12.

## FATHER

From Page 28

Golfers Association, and the Tournament of Champions—joined forces in putting up the fundraiser and they are encouraging their members to participate in the competition.

"All golfers, golf players, and

weekend hackers are invited for this event. All proceeds will be donated to Fr. Manny Corcuera to cover outstanding medical and funeral expenses," TOC's Ben Babauta said.

Corcuera passed away on Dec. 19 in Manila, the Philippines, due to lung cancer. He was 65. Before his death, he was a frequent

participant in various golf tournaments in the CNMI, especially fundraising events. He had his last competition during the Docomo Pacific tournament in September last year. His last victory was during the 2010 Fil-Taga August Ace of the Month Tournament.

Meanwhile, registration fee for the Father Manny Corcuera

Memorial Golf Classic is only \$85 and organizers are giving away a total of \$1,500 cash prizes. Prizes will also be at stake in hole-in-one contests.

For more information, contact Rick Kautz at 322-9282, Mike Cruz at 483-7171, or Babauta at 236-2563. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**



WALTER SUTHERLAND





Wozniacki,  
Djokovic  
advance;  
Henin out  
Page 25

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Blazers win 4th  
straight, beat  
Clippers

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28 SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Armatech, left, and Top 45 were declared MBFNMI Memorial Cup champions after the conclusion of their respective 40A and 45A winner-take-all finals Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

## AGELESS WARRIORS

# Armatech, Top 45 reign supreme

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

Armatech and Top 45 were respectively crowned 40A and 45A champions of the Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI Memorial Cup after defeating separate opponents in their winner-take-all finals Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

## 'Clash Of The Titans' starts today

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

The much anticipated all-star games of Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI tips off 6pm tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The MBFNMI board of directors selected all-star squads from the 45A, 40A, and 35A divisions to compete against one another in a special event after conclusion of Thursday's 45A and 40A championships.

The 45A and 40A teams will duke it out tonight, where the winner moves on to face the 35A all stars on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 6pm. Players are urged to play in their team uniforms.

"This is another fun-themed competition that has been strategically scheduled after conclusion of the 45A and 40A seasons. This way some of the older players will be a little more warmed up when they challenge the 35A squad. It's really about bragging rights and having some fun. If the 35A guys come out cold on Tuesday, then who knows, the older guys may come out on top. We'll find out tonight who gets to take them on," said MBFNMI chair Ray Lizama.

The 45A all-star roster consists of Jun Abedes, Boy Garcia, and Warren Villegas of Kitty Kat-Ferrera Builders; Tony Luzama, Felix Palacios, and Bruce Ber-

See CLASH on Page 27

In the nightcap, Armatech shocked The House, 71-66, to win the 40A championship. Earlier in the evening, Top 45 nipped Kitty Kat-Ferrera Builders, 81-80, to annex the 45A title.

Armatech took the lead early against a well-rested The House team as Sonny Ebuen and Bernard Montano combined for 11 points to shoot them ahead, 17-11, after the opening period.

The early push forced No. 1-ranked The House to play from behind for the first time all season.

Armatech then stretched its

margin to six points, 38-32, at the half. Montano stepped up and delivered 13 points in the second quarter, while Ed Cosino led The House with nine markers in the first half.

Armatech remained strong on defense after the break and stuffed The House in the third quarter, allowing their opponents to score only 14 points.

High-leaping guard Martin Moreno did not score his first basket for Armatech until the end of the period, but he issued out assist after assist throughout the contest.

See ARMATECH on Page 27



# CERT rules govt/biz softball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Community Emergency Response Team clinched the championship in the 2010 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League after rallying past D&Q Spam in the winner-take-all finals, 21-19, last Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

CERT had a 13-run bottom of the fifth inning to climb back from a 2-10 deficit in the third and rule the 20-team league.

Both teams started slow in the championship game with D&Q Spam scoring only four runs against CERT's two in the first

See CERT on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players and supporters of Community Emergency Response Team pose for a group photo after winning the championship in the 2010 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League against D&Q Spam, 21-19, last Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

## Father Manny Golf Classic March 26



The golf community is honoring Father Manny Corcuera with a tournament named after the former apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

Dubbed as the Father Manny Corcuera Memorial Golf Classic, the fundraising tournament will be held on March 26 at the Marianas Country Club.

Three associations—Saipan Golfers Association, Fil-Taga

See FATHER on Page 27

The late Father Manny Corcuera is seen here watching his shot during a fundraising tournament last year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO